

State government lauds incorporation of high quality cassava flour in bread

The Oyo State Government has lauded efforts by researchers at IITA in successfully producing bread with 40 percent cassava flour that has similar eating qualities as 100% wheat flour bread.

The innovation, if adopted, will help Nigeria – Africa’s largest oil producer – to save about \$252 million annually, and improve the livelihoods of cassava farmers in the country.

“We would like to commend IITA for the inclusion of high quality cassava flour in bread. This is a great breakthrough,” the Permanent Secretary, Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Isaac Adeduntan, said during a courtesy call by IITA’s Deputy Director General of Partnerships and Capacity Building, Dr Kenton Dashiell, to the agricultural ministry on Wednesday.

Adeduntan said that the innovation would have a positive impact on the livelihoods of resource-poor farmers, and create wealth with a spin-off effect on job creation for youths.

Beyond the use of composite flour in baking, the courtesy visit identified areas of collaboration between IITA and the Oyo State Government.

The Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr Bimbo Kolade, specifically sought IITA’s help in promoting cassava, maize and yam, as the state embarks on a transformation



IITA’s Dr Kenton Dashiell (fifth from right) with the Oyo State Commissioner, Mr Bimbo Kolade (fourth from right) and other members of the Oyo State Government

program to make these crops catalysts of development.

“For us, as a state, we have identified cassava, yam, maize, cocoa, oil palm, horticultural crops, and cashew as crops that will drive the agricultural transformation of the state,” Mr Kolade said.

“In the next 4–5 years, we want people to identify Oyo state with these crops. We believe that with IITA, we should be the first in cassava production,” he added.

In his response, Dr Dashiell said the milestone achieved in the use of composite flour in bread was a collaborative effort between IITA and partners.

He said that the aim of the visit was to identify and develop action

points that both IITA and the state government would pursue to realize the vision of agricultural transformation.

To demonstrate the Institute’s commitment, Dr Dashiell promised that IITA would support the state with improved cassava planting materials on a 2-hectare piece of land.

He thanked the state government for the construction of the Ajibode road which eases the movement of IITA staff and farmers in the area.

Located in the southwest Nigeria, Oyo state hosts IITA, and is endowed with vast arable land. Besides IITA, the state also hosts the highest number of agricultural research institutes in Nigeria.

New DDG (Research), Dr Ylva Hillbur, arrives in Ibadan



Dr Dashiell welcomes Dr Hillbur on her first day in office

IITA Deputy Director General for Partnerships and Capacity Building, Dr Kenton Dashiell, this week welcomed the new DDG (Research), Dr Ylva Hillbur. The two colleagues immediately met to discuss how to move the Institute forward in the next decade.

Dr Hillbur takes over from Dr Paula Bramel who left earlier this year. The new DDG Research is a Swedish national. She holds Ph.D. in Plant Protection Ecology from the Swedish University of Agricultural Science, Alnarp, Sweden in 2001 and an M.Sc. in Biology from Lund University in 1993.

Prior to her appointment, she was the Head of the Department of Plant

Protection Biology and Assistant Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science, Alnarp from 2006. Dr. Hillbur is accompanied by her husband Per Hillbur. She resides in No 5, Africa Drive, IITA-Ibadan campus and could be reached on ext 2335.

Help conserve electricity!

Before leaving the workplace at day’s end, make sure that you have:

- (1) Powered off all unnecessary electrical office/lab equipment;
- (2) Turned off air conditioners; and
- (3) Switched off all lights.

DG Sanginga soft-launches renovated IGH, calls for stronger maintenance culture

IITA Director General, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, soft-launched the recently modernized main building of the Ikeja Guest House (IGH) on 27 July, citing efforts by staff involved in the project but also calling for a stronger sense of upkeep of IITA facilities and infrastructure.

In a short speech, the DG praised the efforts of the multi-department ad-hoc team that coordinated the rehabilitation of the IGH headed by Jacqueline Musiimenta, Senior Financial Officer; and Samiran Mazumdar, Manager of IITA's Hotel and Catering Services. Sanginga indicated that he was "really impressed by the transformation of the IGH".

"The transformation is remarkable! We could now proudly invite our donors and partners to stay here and even conduct their small meetings here— it's like being in a 5-star hotel," the DG remarked. "I would like to congratulate the team that made all these possible."

However, he also reiterated to all staff present at the launching the importance



Left: The DG "opens" the renovated Ikeja Guest House, and (right) inspects the workmanship.



of upkeep and maintenance. "If we are to maintain the beauty and functionality of this renovated IGH, we need to practice and imbibe a strong sense of maintenance culture. The same goes for all other facilities that IITA has. These are investments that we need to take really good care of so that they will last and serve their purposes longer. This is a responsibility and duty that all of us must share."

During the same day, the DG also conducted a spot inspection of other ongoing rehabilitation work in the IGH compound, particularly the two-room addition outside of the main building, landscaping, generator shed, security room, and staff quarters. He indicated that he will fully commission the IGH once all the renovation work in the compound has been completed, which is expected by early-September.

IITA builds capacity of Sierra Leonean farmers in Attieke production

Sierra Leonean farmers have received training on *Attieke*—cassava couscous—as part of efforts to improve the value chain of the root crop and create more markets—thanks to the USAID-funded project tagged, "Unleashing the Power of Cassava in Africa" (UPoCA).



Participants pose for a group photo

UPoCA, which is being implemented by IITA, aims to reduce food insecurity and poverty.

During a 4-day hands-on training, the project trained 45 cassava processors on the principles and practices of *attieke* production in the country. The training

was held at Kpandebu Growth Centre, Dama Chiefdom, Kenema district in March and was conducted by a resource person from Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

The 45 cassava processors were predominantly women and representatives of 11 smallholder beneficiary groups in the Eastern Province (Kpandebu/ Kenema, Sagilla/Bunumbu and Sandeyalu/Kailahun),

Northern Province (Kambia, Binkolo and Makeni) Western Area, and Southern Province (Pujehun, Koribondo, and Bo). The participants learnt and practiced knowledge and skills used by processors in Cote d'Ivoire to produce the original formula of *attieke* (as against the gari-*attieke* currently sold in Sierra Leone markets) as a new food and income-earning cassava product in the country.

Addressing participants of the training, IITA Country Representative, Dr Braima James said the goal the project is to empower smallholder farmers and cassava processors in the country. The IITA-UPoCA project collaborates with SLARI, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), and several NGOs to promote the area-wide cultivation of improved cassava in the country.

IITA welcomes postdoc, Dr Kashihara Yukiko

Dr Yukiko Kashihara has joined IITA-Ibadan as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Dr Kashihara is a Japanese national. She obtained a B.Sc. in Agriculture from Tokai University, Japan, in 2002. She acquired an M.Sc. in Environmental Science and Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Hokkaido University, Japan, in 2007 and 2011, respectively.

Prior to her appointment, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Hokkaido University and a research intern at Bejo Zeden B.V. (Research Center Tissue culture and cell biology section), Japan, between 2011 and 2012. She worked as Technical Assistant at the Laboratory of Pathogens Plant Interaction, Hokkaido

University from 2010 to 2011; and Technical Assistant at the Ministry of



Dr Yukiko

Agriculture and Forestry, Kingdom of Tonga (MAF Research and Extension Division), Japan between 2002 and 2004. She is temporarily lodged in Room 307 Block D, IITA Ibadan Dormitory.

Part 2

Risk management at IITA

Where are the risks?

Risks to our Institute are located all around us and in what we do towards accomplishing the objectives of our units and projects and thereby the institute's mission "to be Africa's leading research partner in finding solutions to hunger and poverty".

They are in our:

- research portfolio and projects
- people we work with (colleagues and collaborators)
- germplasm and intellectual assets
- equipment, chemicals, machineries, and tools
- external environment
- immediate environment

...To be continued