

Nigeria launches plan to end hunger by 2030

Nigeria made history on 12 January with the [launch of a strategic plan](#) and roadmap to achieve [zero hunger](#) by 2030.



L-R DG Sanginga, Chiji Ojukwu (AfDB), Sen. Abdullah Adamu, Former President Olusegun Obasanjo, Tony Elumelu, Prof. Isaac Adewola, Stanlake Samkange, and Deputy Governor Kelechi Igwe.

The plan tagged: “*Synthesis Report of the Nigeria Zero Hunger Strategic Review*” articulates what Nigeria needs to do to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2)—one of the global goals that seeks to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture” by 2030.

The 60-page home-developed document reflects Nigerians’ perspectives of steps needed to be taken to win the battle against hunger and malnutrition.

Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, who chairs the development of the Synthesis Report said, “The report would support and encourage the government to implement the policies, strategies, plans, and programs that have been formulated over many years, and to do so with a focus on achieving Zero Hunger by 2030, if not earlier.”

To tap its rich agricultural potential and lift over 13 million people from hunger, Nigeria in 2015 endorsed a set of [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) as part of efforts to achieve sustainable development in general.

Former President Obasanjo said the launch of the Synthesis Report provided a framework that would “unlock the potential of our nation and emancipate our dear country from the shackles of hunger and poverty.”

He noted that the establishment of the Nigeria Zero Hunger Forum based at [IITA](#), would ensure that recommendations contained in the Synthesis Report and the individual Subcommittee reports are implemented.

“We must do all we can so that this effort does not suffer the fate of previous endeavors,” he stressed.

The former President commended President Muhammadu Buhari for endorsing the Nigeria Zero Hunger Strategic Review. He lauded Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)) for funding and requesting that the review be conducted, and gave special thanks to the African Development Bank ([AfDB](#)) for providing most of the funds, which financed the Review.

The Director of Policy and Program, WFP, Stanlake Samkange, commended Nigeria for developing the strategic document, emphasizing that the Report was the first in West Africa and would be a guide for other countries to emulate. He reiterated that the task of ending hunger cannot be solved by a single organization and lauded the collaboration of the different actors in the development of the Report.

The inauguration of the Synthesis Report will be backed with immediate implementation in four states of the federation—Benue, Ebonyi, Ogun, and Sokoto beginning this January.

By January 2019 eight more states will be added and by January 2021, all 36 States plus the FCT will be included.

The Director General of IITA, [Nteranya Sanginga](#), said the Synthesis Report was a departure from other previous reports in the sense that it would be backed by immediate action.

According to him, IITA would continue to support states with relevant technologies cutting across crops such as cassava, maize, cowpea, yam, soybean, banana, and plantain. The launch of the Synthesis Report received commendation from the Minister of Health, federal legislature, state governments, United Nations agencies, the AfDB, and the private sector, among others.

Congo Basin Institute gets publicity boost

Last December 2016, the US Ambassador to Cameroon Michael Hoza generously hosted a reception in honor of the [Congo Basin Institute's](#) efforts to advance science to meet the critical challenges facing Central Africa. The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and IITA are leading a multi-institutional initiative to develop the Congo Basin Institute (CBI), which will be a model for how universities, NGOs, and private business can partner in international development and science.

The reception brought together over 85 representatives comprising leaders from diplomatic missions, government institutions, the private sector, civil societies, and research institutions. Ambassador Hoza introduced the event and praised the CBI initiative. Speakers included Prof Tom Smith and [Rachid Hanna](#), co-executive Directors of CBI who elaborated on the CBI partnership and its role in the Congo Basin. Other speakers included Zac Tchoundjeu, Director IBAY-HIES,

Roger Fotso of the World Conservation Society, and Christian Ruck, KfW Director in Cameroon. A special guest was Bob Taylor of Taylor Guitars, who, along with the Spanish firm Madinter and CBI, has invested significantly in improving the sustainability of ebony harvesting in Cameroon.

The partnership is a model for how CBI can bring together multi-stakeholder groups to advance development, scientific research, and capacity building in the Congo Basin.



L to R -Virginia Zaunbrecher (UCLA), Mary Jean Combort (US Embassy), Tom Smith (UCLA), and Ambassador Hoza of the US Embassy.

The guests of the reception.

Management announces rebranding of “new” IITA

In an email during December 2016, DG [Nteranya Sanginga](#) announced the rebranding of IITA and the adoption of a new tagline and boilerplate that better showcases the new IITA. According to DG Sanginga, the changes were discussed in October 2016, during the IITA's Directors' Meeting in Mozambique where a consensus was reached to rebrand IITA.

As a result of the consultations with senior and middle-level management and other stakeholders, the tagline has been changed from “Research to Nourish Africa” to “Transforming African Agriculture” to better reflect the new IITA—an international center of excellence that addresses the grand challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation

through agricultural innovations. Accordingly, the new IITA boilerplate text now reads:

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future.



“The message is clear: we are one IITA with one goal and one vision...Yes, we are a huge organization spread all over Africa but we should speak with one voice. We are not IITA-Abuja or IITA-Uganda. The corporate brand and image should not be diluted by varying or departing from the standard use of logos, templates, and institutional marks and branding guidelines,” DG Sanginga stated.

Staff are encouraged to regularly visit the Intranet and download current logos and institutional templates.

Announcements

Africa RISING Science for Impact Workshop, 17–19 January 2017, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

More details are available at: http://africa-rising.wikispaces.com/science_event17

Crop Breeding Conference, 11–12 April 2017, Ibadan, Nigeria

IITA moves to commercialize and disseminate aflatoxin biocontrol products to Africa's farmers

...flags off project to ensure aflasafe products reach farmers' hands.

African farmers will soon have a product that would ensure safer food for their families and communities. A natural product called [aflasafe](#) that can reduce contamination from aflatoxin, a silent killer, would soon be made available in at least 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Following the success of aflasafe—the first indigenous biocontrol innovation for the prevention of aflatoxin contamination on the fields and store houses of maize and groundnut farmers in Africa, IITA is now set to enable commercialization of the technology, to ensure that farmers in need of the product have access to it.

More than 4.5 billion people in the developing world are exposed to aflatoxins, carcinogenic poisons produced by a fungus that contaminates crops. Aflatoxins are detrimental to human health, and can even cause death. They suppress immune systems and are associated with stunting in children. Aflatoxins also reduce crop value—at least \$450 million in commerce is lost annually to African economies due to aflatoxins.

Aflasafe was developed by IITA, United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service ([USDA-ARS](#)), and national partners. So far, it has been reported to achieve up to 98% efficacy in reducing grain contamination on the fields and stores of farmers where aflasafe products are registered or in the process of becoming nationally registered.

The new aflasafe Technology Transfer and Commercialization Project (aTTC), funded by a \$20 million grant from the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) and [USAID](#), was launched last December 2016 to be implemented in countries that include Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. aTTC will be led by IITA with support from USDA-ARS, Chemonics, Dalberg Global Development Advisors, the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa of the African Union (PACA), national institutions, and Regional Economic Communities such



Drs Dashiell, Bandyopadhyay, and Konlambigue at the press conference.

as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

aTTC is working with business partners that can help to achieve the goal of producing an effective, affordable product that would ensure that farmers, consumers, and communities are protected from the deadly effects of aflatoxin contamination.

"To get aflasafe to the masses, we need many companies, millions of small-scale farmers, and distributors, who know what aflasafe can do to apply it. IITA is excited because the Institute is on the edge of reaching this goal," IITA Deputy Director General, Partnerships for Delivery, [Kenton Dashiell](#) said.

Corroborating the need to work with private businesses in getting the technology out, [Ranjit Bandyopadhyay](#), IITA Plant Pathologist and leader of the Africa-wide aflasafe initiative who has been working on the product for more than a decade now, noted that "This product is indigenous! Developing the technology was not difficult, taking it out to the end users is the challenge; therefore, partnership is very crucial".

The aTTC project is designed to identify and enable partners for manufacturing/

distribution of aflasafe, and increase its availability. The launch event in Ibadan had researchers, farmers' organizations, and private and public sector partners in attendance.

Also speaking at the launch event, Amare Ayalew, Program Manager, [PACA](#), highlighted the need for disseminating the innovation to the farmers.

"African farmers need game-changing research technologies like aflasafe to meet aflatoxin standards for international trade and also to nourish their families and other people who eat their produce with wholesome products," Ayalew stated.

aTTC Managing Director Abdou Konlambigue said that the project is designed to identify strategic options for partnerships with private companies, and/ or government entities, execute those partnerships, and help ensure that aflasafe reaches millions of farmers throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

"We look forward to making sure that this technology reaches the hands of farmers in the soonest time possible through strategic partnerships with governments, the private sector, and other key stakeholders. Ultimately, we want to ensure that African farmers produce safe food and their income is reassured by adopting aflasafe."

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