



## Goodbye, staff tell Hartmann

IITA staff based in Ibadan today bid farewell to Hartmann as he prepares to end his 10-year tenure as Director General. Hartmann will officially handover the baton to Nteranya Sanginga on 31 October 2011.

Hartmann came to IITA in 2001. Prior to this appointment, he was a Professor and Director of International Programs at the University of Florida. While at the university, he worked with the faculty on institutional linkages with universities and research institutions in Uganda, Cameroon, Nigeria, Nicaragua, the Netherlands, and Honduras.

His work experience spans across the US, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean.



In his valedictory message to staff, Hartmann described the IITA job as the best he had ever had.

"You did your jobs so well there was little for me to do. The Executive Team—Paula Bramel, Lakshmi Menon and Sholola—on whom I depended 100% never let me down. Directors, unit heads, Executive Assistant (Mrs Oke) in the Directorate, many scientists and support staff, you were all super professional," he said.

Staff said Hartmann will be remembered for his humility, boldness, and passion for the development of Africa's agriculture.

After IITA, Hartmann plans to help develop Africa's tertiary education curriculum and also continue contributing to the fight against hunger and poverty.

## What colleagues say about Hartmann



**Bryan Harvey**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, IITA

We will be sorry to see you leave IITA for many reasons. Your passion for solving the problems that face your native continent were and are evident in everything you do. Your ways are a bit unorthodox but very effective. You set very high standards for yourself and those who worked with you. You do not tolerate fools well but on the other hand you are patient and supportive of anyone who makes an honest effort. You did not hesitate to delegate authority and to let the people exercise that authority and thus contributed to a great deal of growth in the staff at IITA.

Your ability to see through to the nub of a problem and to devise innovative solutions has been a boon to IITA and thus the people it serves. You have lead

IITA to be a dominant player in Africa and a leader amongst the CGIAR centers. We will miss your sense of humor, your hard work, and your leadership. I know that you will never forget IITA and we will surely call on you for support and sage advice from time to time. We wish you a challenging and satisfying retirement free of reports, evaluations, and bureaucracy. Hartmann the 'Hat man' will always be fondly remembered at IITA.

**Koen Geerts**, Assistant Director General-Corporate Services, ICARDA

Just a short note to say goodbye, congratulations, and thank you! Except for a short period in 2006 and 2007, we did not work very closely, but I want to tell you that I admire you for your great insights, your frankness, and your courage to rock the boat when necessary, whatever the cost! Down to earth, no nonsense, and clients first—that's why we are here. In my "CG Reform" file I have one file called "Hartmann" filled with your pearls of wisdom... and I often refer to it... You made a difference to IITA and to the CG, without a selfish interest... Many leaders have a big ego, but often just for themselves. You may have an ego as well, but you have it for your institute

and for the cause you serve. Wherever you go, I am sure you will continue along that line.

Once again, thank you, and my most sincere congratulations.



**Akin Adesina**, Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria

Hartmann is a down-to-earth Director General who has brought a great change to IITA and positively contributed to Nigeria. He sees agriculture as a business and has helped to successfully move IITA to linking research to markets, making research and development more responsive to demand. I will miss his hat! Under that hat is a first class brain that works always for the interest of farmers. I will greatly miss you, my friend.

# Project launched in Zambia to mitigate cassava disease threats



*Stakeholders at the inauguration of the project on 'Mitigating Cassava Disease Threats for Improved Cassava Production in Zambia.'*

IITA organized on 4 and 5 October at Protea Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia, the inception meeting of the "Mitigating Cassava Disease Threats for Improved Cassava Production in Zambia, with a Focus on Eastern Province project". This project is funded by the United States Government (USG) Feed the Future Initiative in Zambia. The Feed the Future Program goal is to sustainably reduce global poverty and hunger. The program seeks to build the capacity of the national agricultural research system, raise farm productivity, and promote adoption of improved cassava varieties and low-cost technologies for smallholder farmers.

The project goal is to contribute to improved rural livelihoods in Zambia by boosting cassava production. It will provide farmers with high-yielding cassava mosaic disease (CMD)- and cassava brown streak disease (CBSD)-resistant varieties and strengthen capacity for cassava research for development.

Stakeholders and partners involved in the implementation of the project from the Ministry of Agriculture, Zambian Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI), NGOs (CRS, JICA), Seeds Certification and Inspectorate Institute (SCCI), and farmers were invited to discuss the annual work plan and to define roles and responsibilities of each partner.

Pheneas Ntawuruhunga, the SARRNET coordinator, welcomed the participants on behalf of R4D Director David Chikoye, indicating that IITA is happy to launch the cassava project component of the Feed of the Future program to work more closely with the Zambia people. IITA in collaboration with national partners will develop strategies to mitigate the combined effects of the two most important cassava diseases (CMD and CBSD) to increase cassava production that will contribute to livelihood improvement of the people.

Mrs Alexis Jones, from USAID Zambia reported that USAID has defined a multi-year strategy for Zambian agriculture and nutrition within the Feed the Future program. This is the key approach to FTF's productivity and nutrition goals. She said that the FTF research portfolio is investing in international public goods in three areas: (a) advancing the productivity frontier, (b) transforming key production systems, and (c) enhancing nutrition and food safety through agriculture. The FTF Zambia country programs invest in adaptive research and capacity building based on sustainable intensification, research that is purpose-driven and impact-oriented and promoting stronger linkages between donors, international and local research systems.

In his keynote address, Richard Kamona, the ZARI Director thanked IITA and USAID for implementing the project in Zambia, promising that ZARI and MACO will fully support the project's activities.

## Staff laud workshop on fire safety

IITA staff have commended the just- concluded IITA Safety Week that featured a session on fire safety, among others.

The benefit of the fire safety session could be applied to personal and official circumstances, the staff said.

Anchored by David Oluwadare, IITA Security Manager, the session included tips on handling fire outbreaks.

For instance, in the event of fire accidents, staff are expected to first raise the alarm, evacuate from the building or area involved, check that any staff or visitors with disabilities are also evacuated, call the reporting center and give details of the location, severity, and cause of the fire, if known, and fight the fire if it is safe to do so.

"It should never be the other way round," Oluwadare said.

Staff were also trained on practical use of fire extinguishers.

DDG Support Lakshmi Menon urged staff members to be safety conscious, stressing that safety is the responsibility of all.



*A staff learns how to use the fire extinguisher during the practical session*

She also told staff to be prudent in the use of electricity by switching off appliances that are not in use.

Other activities featured during the Safety Week include: Vehicle

Maintenance Strategies & Implication on Safe & Defensive Driving, First Aid in Emergencies, and Defensive Driving & Prevention of Road Accidents.