



Dr Nteranya Sanginga is IITA new Director General designate

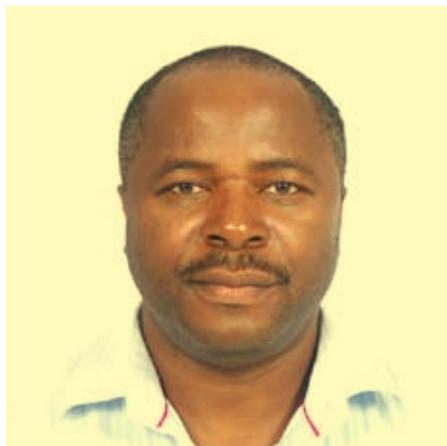
Ibadan, Nigeria—The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has named Dr Nteranya E. Sanginga as the new director general.

“Dr Sanginga was selected from an outstanding group. His achievements in reinvigorating the Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute (TBSF) of the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), and tropical experience make him an ideal choice to take on the much broader task of guiding IITA into the next decade,” says Dr Bryan Harvey, chair of IITA’s board, today.

“We are confident that under his administration IITA will continue the outstanding work the Institute does in improving the lives of the tropical people in Africa and throughout the world,” he adds.

Currently serving as the director of the Nairobi-based CIAT-TBSF, Dr Sanginga has more than 21 years of experience with the University of Zimbabwe, IITA, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Austria, and CIAT-TBSF, in agricultural research and development, particularly in the fields of applied microbial ecology, plant nutrition, and integrated natural resources management in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.

Born and bred in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Dr Sanginga did most of his postgraduate training at IITA and his PhD in Agronomy/Soil Microbiology under a joint program



between IITA and the Institut Facultaire des Sciences Agronomiques, Yangambi, DRC.

He has extensive skills in research management, developing partnerships and institutional linkages, and institution building. Under his leadership, the CIAT-TSBF portfolio rose from \$1.2 million in 2003 to over \$14.5 million in 2010, and its research-for-development agenda expanded from focusing on western Kenya to covering the major agroecosystems of east, central, and southern Africa.

He has also played a major role in the creation of the Consortium for Improving Agriculture-based Livelihood in Central Africa (CIALCA) that includes three international research centers (IITA, CIAT-TSBF, and Bioversity), university partners in Belgium, national research

and development partners in DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda.

His career has also focused on building the capacity of young scientists in Africa. He has trained more than 30 PhD candidates at the National University of Congo, School of Agriculture and University of Zimbabwe, who now hold leadership positions in their countries.

Prior to transferring to CIAT-TBSF, Dr. Sanginga spent 14 years in IITA in various capacities, including principal scientist and head of the soil microbiology unit; project coordinator of Improvement of high intensity food and forage crop systems and Short fallow systems to arrest land degradation due to land use intensification; and leader of the multidisciplinary program Improving and intensifying cereal-legume systems in the moist and dry savannas of West and Central Africa, collaborating with many scientists in national and international institutions.

In his presentation to the Board, Dr Sanginga said that as the new DG, he would organize and strengthen IITA’s research and research partnerships, building on its past achievements and enhancing its scientific and administrative capacity to deliver on its mission of “increasing agricultural production, food security, and income in tropical nations.”

Dr Sanginga will succeed Dr Peter Hartmann whose tenure will end on 31 October 2011. The new director-general will assume office effective 1 November 2011.

Bolarinwa Ezekiel is CO Best staff of the quarter



Bolarinwa Ezekiel Oluyemi has been named the Communication Office Best staff of the quarter.

Ezekiel, IITA Senior Printer, was born on 5 May 1965. As the eldest of a family of five, he had his elementary education in I.D.C Laniba Primary School in Akinyele in 1979 and high school education in Ajibode Grammar School in 1985. He hails from Oyo State.

He joined IITA as ‘Printer 3’ with printing experience in companies such as Tony design and System Press, all based in Ibadan.

Ezekiel dedicated the award to God. He acknowledged his colleagues as dedicated and hardworking staff in the CO family. He appreciated the

organizers of the award, and commended the CO team for the decision to initiate the award.

The award winner is married and the union is blessed with two lovely daughters named, Priscillia and Dorcas.

Vacancies

- Post Doctoral Fellow (Ref: DDG-R4D/BMZ PDF/03/11)
- Regional Project Coordinator (Ref: DDG-R4D/PC/05/11)
- Roots and Tuber Systems Agronomist (Ref: DDG-R4D/RTA/01/10)

If you are interested in working for us, please visit: <http://www.iita.org/careers>

TL II Project: Scientists take stock, plan for the future

Scientists working under the Tropical Legumes II project met in Ibadan to examine the successes recorded in the last three years and to map out plans that would further improve the productivity of legumes in West and Central Africa.

The three-day meeting was attended by scientists from ICRISAT, IITA, CIAT, NARES partners from Niger, Nigeria, Mali as well as private seed producers and farmers.

Also in attendance was Dr. Brian Love a representative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Paula Bramel, IITA Deputy Director General (R4D) while welcoming participants commended scientists working under the project for their efforts towards improving the productivity of legumes.

Echoing the strides made so far, Dr. Dave Hoisington, ICRISAT Deputy Director General (Research), said the meeting was about "looking at what has been achieved and how to move forward."

The meeting witnessed presentations of achievements and lessons learned from Nigeria, Mali and the Republic of Niger.

In all the presentations made, the release of improved legumes varieties with farmers reaping high yields was prominent.

Dr. Christian Fatokun, Cowpea Breeder, said the project had made impact in sub Saharan Africa; citing, for instance, that the TL II project had facilitated the release of



Participants at the TL II project in Ibadan.

4 cowpea varieties in Nigeria, 4 in Nigeria and another 3 in Mali. Dr. Hailu Tefera, IITA Soybean Breeder, also reported that 4 improved soybean varieties have been released in Nigeria.

The released varieties have productivity advantage of between 50 and 80 per cent over local checks. Besides, they are resistant to some pests such as *Striga* and tolerant of drought.

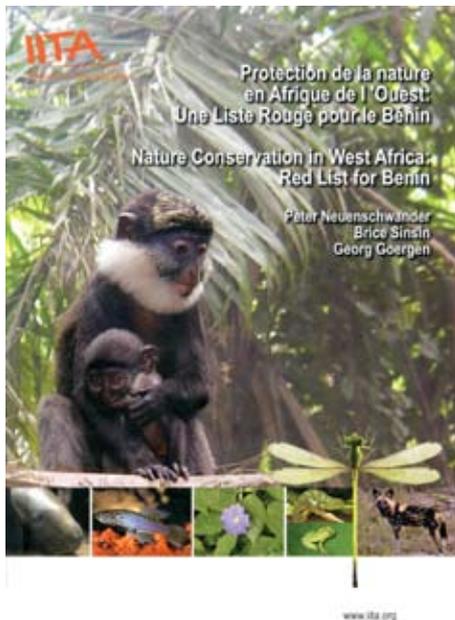
Students from Nigeria, Mali and Niger have been trained at MSc level in plant

breeding under the TL II project.

The meeting also provided a platform for researchers and partners to map out strategies aimed at improving legumes' productivity in the years ahead.

The TL II project aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers through improved productivity and production of tropical grain legumes in sub Saharan Africa and South Asia. The first phase of TL II is currently transiting to a second phase which is expected to start soon.

Nature Conservation in West Africa: Red List for Benin



Scientists have published, for the first time, a 33-chapter book covering rare and threatened plants, insects, fishes, antelopes and large cats among others in the Republic of Benin.

This is coming at a time when

leaders are giving greater attention to conservation and the world is losing biodiversity at a rate faster than earlier imagined.

The book presents the technical information on the distribution, danger to, and potential survival of threatened plants and animals in the Republic of Benin.

It evaluates the status of over 550 species based on IUCN criteria with their local names, short descriptions, ecologies and distributions; and makes recommendations to relevant authorities.

Edited by Drs. Peter Neuenschwander, Brice Sinsin and Georg Goergen, the book is a useful resource to all concerned with nature conservation: the authorities in the different ministries, NGOs, young people, professors at the universities and higher schools, travel agencies promoting ecotourism, tourists and all nature lovers.

The 33-chapter book is a five-year work involving different authors from two national universities in Benin— Abomey-Calavi and Parakou; Ministry of Environment of the Centre Béninois de

la Recherche Scientifique et Technique, NGOs, IITA-Benin and some European Universities.

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.

Announcement

CIALCA global confab on humid tropics, 24-27 October 2011

For further details, kindly contact: cialca-conference@cgiar.org or visit www.cialca.org.

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