



## IITA formalizes ties with Nestlé

IITA has signed a Confidentiality Agreement with Nestlé, paving the way for more formal collaboration on research to boost yields and improve the fortunes of farmers in Africa.

Signing on behalf of IITA was Dave Watson, Director of the Project Development and Management Office; while Serigne Diop, Nestlé's Head of R&D in West Africa, signed on behalf of the company.

Also on hand to witness the signing of the agreement were Paula Bramel, Ranajit Bandyopadhyay, Bussie Maziya-Dixon, Paul Ilona, Abebe Menkir, and Christian Fatokun. Nestlé's team was made up of Frazer Owen, QA & Scientific Manager; Cheikh Mboup, Agronomy Group Manager; and Serigne Diop, Head of R&D in West Africa.

Bramel described the event as historic, adding that it would pave the way for the two organizations to work together more closely to better the lives of African farmers.

It is envisaged that the partnership between IITA, Africa's leading research partner; and nutrition giant, Nestlé, will enhance activities in the value chain, create wealth, and put more money in farmers' pockets.



*L-R: Diop and Watson sign agreement on Nestlé-IITA collaboration*

Bramel said, "IITA's interest is not only in increasing the crops' productivity but also the value chain that will improve farmers' incomes."

She commended Nestlé for the initiative to join forces with IITA in addressing challenges facing agricultural development in Africa.

On their part, the Nestlé representatives said they were very pleased to work with IITA. Diop said the company's research

involved increasing yield, creating more value addition, and ensuring that consumers get the best quality products.

IITA provides solutions to hunger and poverty via improvement in crops' productivity.

Nestlé, on the other hand, is the world's leading nutrition, health, and wellness company committed to increasing the nutritional value and taste of its food products.

## Biodiversity Week at IITA

Next week is Biodiversity Week in IITA-Ibadan. As part of the celebration of the UN International Year of Biodiversity, the Genetic Resources Center is organizing educational visits to the forest, genebank, screenhouses, and plant tissue culture laboratory; a ceremonial tree planting activity; and a quiz contest for representatives (SS2 level) of several private and state schools in Ibadan. The quiz contest, dubbed *Biodiversity Battle of the Brains*, will be held on 27 May at the Conference Center.

The activities are being launched to promote biodiversity and mobilize local communities to conserve it now for the sake of future generations.

Meanwhile, in Tanzania, IITA and partners have also set in motion a series of events to mark the year. A promotional and educational campaign on biodiversity and its importance that included an art competition—targeting school children in selected schools in Dar es Salaam—was launched last month.

This week (17 – 21 May), the organizers, led by IITA, visited schools and held awareness sessions with the children.

The climax of the events will take place tomorrow, 22 May, which is also the International Day of Biodiversity, at the museum and house of culture, Dar es Salaam. Winners of the art competition will be announced in a ceremony and the month-long exhibition of the art works will be launched at the same venue.

The consortium members include IITA and the museum and house of culture, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Other important partners include World Agroforestry Centre, Tanzania Wildlife Conservation Society, and Tanzania Biodiversity Information facility (TanBIF). The French Embassy in Tanzania contributed financially towards the event.

More activities to promote biodiversity are planned for the year. If you want to know more about ongoing biodiversity initiatives, go to <http://www.cbd.int/2010/about/>.



*Conservation of IITA biodiversity: IITA holds and conserves the largest collection of cowpea worldwide*

# Work in Cameroon receives moral boost

The Cameroonian government has restated its commitment to support the IITA-STCP program, which aims at improving the livelihoods of cocoa farmers.

The government expressed its support during a courtesy visit by members of the IITA-STCP Executive Committee on 7 May to the Cameroonian Minister of Commerce, Magloire Mbarga Atangana.

The courtesy visit came at a time when members held the 8th Regional Executive Committee meeting in Yaounde, Cameroon.

The Minister thanked the delegates for choosing Cameroon as the venue for such an important event. He also assured the delegates that the government of Cameroon would continue to support efforts geared towards improving the lives of farmers.

Earlier, the STCP Executive Committee members were hosted at a dinner in honor of the Cameroonian Office National



*A representative of the Minister making a speech during the opening of the IITA-STCP meeting in Cameroon*

du Cocoa et du Café (ONCC). There was an impressive show of Cameroonian culture led by the Bikusi and Asiko dancers who kept the guests thrilled for hours as they were treated to a fascinating performance of culture and prank.

The Team expressed appreciation for the continuous support by the government and people of Cameroon towards ensuring the success of the STCP and Cocoa Livelihood Programs.

## IITA-Cameroon staff fetes on May Day



*IITA-Cameroon staff celebrate May Day*

IITA-staff members in Cameroon gathered at the Shell Bengnon in downtown Yaounde to mark this year's May Day festival. The staff joined thousands of Cameroonian workers to celebrate their various contributions to the growth and development of the country's socioeconomic and political sectors.

There was enough food and drink to keep the staff together for hours as they made merry and reflected on what had transpired at their station over the past year. For many of the Cameroonians, the occasion also marks a period of stock taking and a source of encouragement to work harder in the coming years.

## New visiting scientist

IITA welcomes new Visiting Scientist Deless Thiemele. He will be working with Dominique Dumet on yam germplasm fingerprinting. Deless is from Cote d'Ivoire. He completed his PhD in Genetics (Analysis of the resistance to Rice Yellow Mottle Virus in African cultivated rice) at the Cocody University of Abidjan and IRD Montpellier, France. Deless can be contacted at office extension 2718, or his home extension at 2446. His email address is [D.Thiemele@cgiar.org](mailto:D.Thiemele@cgiar.org).



*Deless*

## Vacancies

**RESEARCH SUPERVISOR**, 2-year renewable contract (Kano Station)

BSc Agricultural Economics plus at least 3 years post-qualification relevant working experience in the northern part of Nigeria.

**ACCOUNTS CLERK II**, 2-year renewable contract (Ibadan)

National Diploma (ND) in Accounting or Business Administration plus 2 years post-qualification working experience in a reputable hotel/catering outfit.

**DATA ENTRY CLERK**, 2-year renewable contract (Ibadan)

National Diploma (ND) in any business related discipline or WASC plus a good Certificate/Diploma in Data Processing. Two years post-qualification working experience in a reputable organisation.

Interested applicants should forward their applications with a detailed curriculum vitae, the names and addresses of three professional referees (including telephone, fax and e-mail addresses, if available), evidence of current remuneration package and photocopies of credentials, to the Personnel Manager, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, PMB 5320, Oyo Road, Ibadan, Nigeria not later than 26 May 2010.