



## Hartmann tells staff, "Thank you"



*DDG-Support Lakshmi Menon presents a plaque to DG Hartmann from staff and colleagues.*

Staff poured praises on Dr Hartmann, during the send-off organized in his honor last Friday at headquarters, as he prepares to end his 10-year tenure on 30 October 2011 as Director General.

For the President of the Management Staff Association, Femi Akeredolu, Hartmann's ingenuity transformed IITA's financial status, with the institute's funding growing from \$28--\$30 million

annually in 2001 to about \$52 million within his tenure.

He said the exit of Hartmann came with mixed feelings.

"In a sense, it is a day of great joy because we are here to celebrate an icon, a man of great exploit, an achiever, a consummate leader, and an economic guru; who we are sure is not retired yet, but just taking a bow to move further.

On the other hand, it is also a painful thing to part with a jewel with records of accomplishment and quality of good leadership displayed by Dr Hartmann in his 10-year term," he explained.

The President of the Senior Staff Association, Bukky Adeyemo, congratulated Hartmann for a job well done in the past decade.

"We appreciate your meritorious service to humanity," she said.

For Adewale Afonja, President of General Staff Association, Hartmann's efforts brought IITA to limelight.

Dr Robert Asiedu, R4D Director, urged the outgoing director general to make his wealth of experience available to the incoming director general whenever called upon to do so.

Omoshalewa Sholola, Chief Financial Officer, said Hartmann's excellent financial management brought about stability in the institute.

For Lakshmi Menon, DDG Support, Hartmann is a great leader who helped the institute in tackling the challenges of food security in Africa.

She said, "Hartmann will be greatly missed."

In his response, Hartmann said the staff were in the best position to judge his tenure. He, however, left staff with two words, "Thank You."

## Images from Hartmann's farewell party



*Far left: R4D Director Robert Asiedu extols the virtues of the outgoing DG. Left: Hartmann shows off the Book of Memories prepared by the Communication Office on behalf of the Institute. He described the Book as the best gift he ever received. The Book is a collage of pictures and colleagues' testimonials.*



*Left: The children from the IITA International School render a farewell song. Right: Staff came in droves to say thank you and farewell to the DG.*

# MIRACLE in Malawi



*Stakeholders at the inauguration of the MIRACLE project in Malawi*

IITA officially launched the MIRACLE (Making Agricultural Innovations Work for Smallholder Farmers Affected by HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa) project in Malawi. The project will make available agriculture-based innovations to improve the livelihoods of some 62,500 people living with AIDS (PLA) in the country. The project is part of coordinated efforts by IITA and partners to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on people depending on agriculture, which is a source of livelihood for over 80% of the population in Malawi.

MIRACLE-Malawi was launched during a ceremony held at the Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe on 19 September by

Humphrey Mdyetseni, Deputy Director responsible for Planning and Research in the Department of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS. He represented Dr Mary Shawa, Principal Secretary of the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS of the Office of the President and the Cabinet.

In his keynote address, Mdyetseni cited that the project, which would continuously encourage PLA farmers to produce and consume traditional nutritious vegetables such as leaves of pumpkin, cassava, sweet potato, and similar other crops, will complement the government's efforts to mitigate the effects of the deadly disease on many Malawians.

"IITA and its partners have successfully coordinated projects that have increased agricultural productivity and reduced poverty through improving food and nutritional security in the country, and the government of Malawi is convinced that the MIRACLE Project will be one of the projects that will go a long way in supporting the government in achieving the Millennium Development Goals," said Mdyetseni.

Hailu Tefera, IITA Country Representative for Malawi, called on all partners for their total commitment to ensure the success of the project.

MIRACLE is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), and is being implemented in Malawi by IITA with World Vision. Other countries covered by the project include Zambia, Mozambique, and Swaziland. The project will run for three years.

# Arega Alene is new Country Representative in Malawi

Dr Arega Alene has been appointed as the new IITA Country Representative in Malawi. His functions include:

1. Represent IITA to external organizations within the country.
2. Facilitate collaboration/partnership between IITA and local NARS, universities, national development agencies, private sector, NGOs, and community based organizations.
3. Assist in the formalization of agreements between IITA and local research institutions, NGOs/CBOs.
4. Promote IITA's work and image in the country by:
  - Providing backstopping and

oversight to station administrators, and researchers within the country in consultation with the R4D Director and Regional Administrator.

- Facilitating communication among IITA scientists within country by coordinating location planning and reporting to the Director on location needs or issues as needed.
- Supervising and approving handover for scientists and other staff at end of contract.
- Mentoring scientists in the country.

IITA Management urges colleagues to give Arega the necessary cooperation.



# New IITA Intranet site rolled out

The Communication Office is pleased to announce the launch of the new and improved IITA Intranet. The new IITA Intranet site (in Liferay) offers a more robust, user-friendly, and visually stimulating interface.

To access the new Intranet site, staff need to log in using their IT-issued username and password (the same credentials that you use to log in to your work computers).

For staff accessing the new Intranet site from within the Ibadan campus, please click on the "New Intranet - Ibadan" link from the bottom navigation bar of the IITA website's



*The new intranet site*

home page. For those accessing the Intranet site from outside of IITA-Ibadan, click on the "New Intranet - Outside Ibadan" link.

The old IITA Intranet site is still active and could still be accessed by clicking on the "Old Intranet" link. This link will remain active only until the end of the year.

If you encounter any issues or for questions, feedback, comments, and/or suggestions, please send an email to Kathy Lopez (k.lopez@cgiar.org) or Kwasi Asiedu (k.asiedu@cgiar.org) with the subject heading "New IITA Intranet site feedback."