



We need to work together better to make a difference – CIMMYT DG

Dr Thomas Lumpkin, Director General of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) called on expanded collaboration between CIMMYT and IITA especially in maize and wheat research if the two centers are to make a difference and gain headway in addressing hunger and poverty in Africa.

“IITA and CIMMYT – and all of the CGIAR centers for that matter – must work more closely if we are to make a significant impact on food security and related issues that this continent, and the world, is currently facing,” Lumpkin emphasized.

The CIMMYT DG was at IITA headquarters in Ibadan last week on an official visit to explore avenues for expanded partnerships between the sister institutes. Lumpkin was accompanied by Michelle De Frees, Communication Assistant to the DG. The two met with Dr Nteranya Sanginga, IITA Director General, and maize researchers Drs Abebe Menkir, Tahirou Abdoulaye, Sam Ajala, and Baffour Badu-Apraku.

“We [the CGIAR] are too small; a US\$ 1 billion budget is too small, given the global food security and related issues that we need to address. Together with our national



CIMMYT DG Thomas Lumpkin (center) with IITA DG Nteranya Sanginga (3rd from left) with IITA maize scientists.

partners, we can face this challenge if we pool our resources together and work more closely and more efficiently.”

“I came here to learn and talk with you on how to better collaborate especially on maize and maybe some wheat,” Lumpkin added.

At the meeting, Menkir presented an overview of IITA’s past and current work on maize, specifically breeding. He highlighted some of the collaborative work of IITA and CIMMYT such as the African Maize

Stress project, Quality Protein Maize project, research on *Striga* resistance genes, and the Drought-Tolerant Maize in Africa (DTMA) initiative.

“The breeding efforts of CIMMYT and IITA are complementary and cover all agroecological conditions in Africa. We must exploit this complementarity for the benefit of farmers,” Sanginga commented. He especially cited the DTMA project as a model of inter-center collaboration.

Some of the potential areas for further collaboration identified during meeting included natural resources management, building related research capacities, and project management and implementation in sub-Saharan Africa based on use-experience.

“We must be driven by the common mission to help farmers through cooperation. We need to start at the leadership-level to further enhance the relationship between our centers. And I am indeed very happy of the commitment that you have shown to this end,” Sanginga emphasized while addressing Lumpkin.

Mrs Sanginga visits biocontrol facility in IITA-Benin



From 31 January to 3 February, Mrs Charlotte Sanginga, spouse of IITA DG Nteranya Sanginga, visited the natural enemies rearing facilities of the IITA station in Cotonou, Benin. The facilities are part of the institute’s biological control program in that country.

Mrs Sanginga interacting with a staff of the IITA natural enemies rearing facilities at IITA-Benin.

IITA offers recipe to tackle food insecurity, unemployment

Institute welcomes new, relocated staff



Ekiti State Governor Kayode Fayemi (right) welcoming IITA DG Sanginga in his office.

Tapping research outputs from international agricultural research centers could help national and state governments to tackle the twin problems of food insecurity and the rising wave of unemployment, says Dr Nteranya Sanginga, Director General of IITA, in his address to the Governor of Ekiti State, Dr Kayode Fayemi, during a courtesy call to the governor's office on Tuesday, 21 February.

"We have the technologies and knowledge to help boost agriculture and we are ready to share these with you," the DG said while referring to the Ekiti State Government.

Faced with the challenge of food deficit, most governments in Africa rely on food imports to meet local demands. Also the rising population in the region poses two important challenges: more mouths to feed and unemployment.

Sanginga said investments in research and development, backed with the necessary political support, could alleviate the situation of high food import burden and improve agriculture to generate jobs.

Pledging to step up assistance to farmers in Ekiti State, Sanginga called for greater cooperation between IITA and the government of Ekiti.

Endowed with favorable agroecological zones, Ekiti is among the states that have over the years

benefited from IITA's research and development work in cocoa, yam, cassava, and banana and plantain. For instance, farmers in that state received improved cassava cuttings from the institute, while the clean seed yam technology is equally offering farmers 'seeds of hope'.

He also cited the yellow cassava varieties recently developed by IITA and partners could help the state in improving the nutrition of its people.

Other areas in which the institute could support farmers in Ekiti state include deployment of improved processing technologies through the value chain approach and capacity building of agricultural actors.

The DG also presented the 40 percent cassava bread to the governor while reiterating that IITA has a number of technologies in other crops that the state could tap.

Governor Fayemi commended IITA for its efforts and expressed the state's willingness to collaborate with the Institute. He said the state would require support in the area of mechanization, adding that a blueprint for the state's agricultural development is in the pipeline.

He stressed that the visit of IITA was timely, adding that the blueprint being developed would help the state to take advantage of both the internal and external markets.



Dr. Thomas Dubois, Coordinator-Aflatoxin Mitigation in Southern Africa, has relocated from IITA-Uganda to Ibadan. Dubois, a Belgian, holds a PhD in Entomology from Cornell University, Ithaca, USA. He

obtained BS and MS in Bioengineering in 1997 at the University of Gent, Belgium with specialization in Crop Protection.

Dubois will be based at IITA-Ibadan Ibadan until November this year.

He is sharing office with Dr Ranajit Bandyopadhyay in Room 33A, Building 400. He could be contacted at extension 2844 and through his e-mail at T.Dubois@cgiar.org.



Mrs Naomi Kamanga is the new Project Coordinator – Feed the Future Initiative (FtF) based in IITA-Zambia in Lusaka. Kamanga, a Malawian, holds a Master of Science degree in Strategic

Management in 2006 from the University of Derby, United Kingdom. She obtained a diploma in Dairy Training Extension in 2000 from Friesland Dairy Training Centre, The Netherlands. She has another diploma in Agriculture from the University of Malawi that she obtained in 1992.

Before IITA, she was the Country Director of World Hope International in their Zambia and Malawi offices from July 2008 – January 2012.

Kamanga's e-mail address is N.Kamanga@cgiar.org.



Dr Hesham Agrama, an Egyptian-American, has assumed duty at IITA-Lusaka, Zambia as Soybean Breeder. Agrama obtained his PhD in Genetics from Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt in 1992, and his MSc and

BSc in Genetics from the same University in 1986 and 1979, respectively.

Prior to this appointment, he worked as a Research Geneticist at the Agricultural Research Center, Egypt from 2010 - 2011 and was a Research Associate at the Rice Research & Ext. Center, University of Arkansas & DB National Rice Center, USA from 2004 – 2010.

Agrama may be contacted via H.Agrama@cgiar.org.

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