

Leventis Project plants first trees of IITA-Ibadan forest restoration programme

The IITA-Leventis Foundation Forest Project, initiated in February this year, has planted its first trees at the institute's Ibadan campus. Comprised of 10 different tree species, the activity is the first of many that the project would undertake to rehabilitate and protect the existing 350 ha of secondary forest on campus.

Aside from restoring the existing tree stands, the project also aims to plant a further 300 ha of forest along the east side of the lake using indigenous species. So far the project has raised over 14,000 young trees from seeds, cuttings, and wildlings (self-sown seedlings) in the nursery that it has also established.

Deni Bown, Leventis Project Coordinator, says that the initial tree planting activity was completed on 25 August. The project staff also collected soil samples, light levels, and GPS coordinates of the area where the first trees were planted.

Among the tree species planted were *Azelia africana*, *Bombax buonopozense*, *Cleistopholis patens*, *Cola gigantea*, *Hildegardia barteri*, *Millettia griffoniana*, *Pentaclethra macrophylla*, *Pterocarpus santalinoides*, *Spondias mombin*, and *Tetrapleura tetraptera*.

The seedlings have been marked with 2m-high bamboo stakes painted at the tips in 10 different colours representing each species. Project staff will closely monitor the seedlings to establish protocols for future plantings.

She added that most of the trees were raised from seeds collected on campus. The outplanted seedlings were chosen based on

size (being at least 30cm high) and well-established in pots in the nursery.

The trees were planted in areas adjacent to the stable on the southern end of the IITA lake, on six plots measuring 20m x 30m each – two plots on an abandoned farmland and four plots on the remnants of a highly degraded secondary forest. About 300 seedlings were planted on each plot, with

5 specimens of the 10 species, in a random way to mimic natural regeneration. Each plot was subjected to a different ground treatment before the seedlings were planted.

As there are no established reforestation guidelines in West Africa, and as every situation differs in requirements, the project decided to begin by planting on experimental areas.



(Top) A Leventis Project staff planting the first tree seedling of the IITA-Ibadan forest restoration programme. (Bottom) A section of one of the plots showing some of the trees and markers. The Leventis Project aims to rehabilitate and protect the existing 350 ha of secondary forest growth at the IITA-Ibadan campus, as well as to plant an additional 300 ha with indigenous tree species. Photos by Deni Bown and JT Oliver.

Help conserve electricity!

Before leaving your workplace at the end of the day, 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.

IITA-Tanzania pilots automated fixed assets management...

IITA-Tanzania administrative staff completed a five-day training in Assets Management using time and cost saving computerized SAGE Fixed Asset System to enable them to pilot the system at the regional hub. If it proves successful, it will then be rolled out in IITA's field stations in East Africa.

According to Gerald Rusulabeza, Regional IT Officer, the new system uses aluminium bar-coded tags labels which are indelible, scratch proof and can withstand extreme climatic conditions, and barcode scanning technology to quickly capture assets information from all locations, track all assets and verify status of assets in short time. The data will also be uploaded to the accounting system for financial reports.

The training was conducted on 20-25 July by Gallena Investments Ltd at IITA-Tanzania office. It looked at the full asset management life cycle from purchasing to disposal and management of assets before they become an asset using SAGE Construction In Progress (SAGE CIP) to transform IITA's management



IITA-Tanzania administration team listening intently to the facilitator from Gallena Investments during the 5-day training on automated fixed assets management.

of fixed assets from manual to automated. This will enable the institute to exercise better control and management of its fixed assets in a timely and cost-effective manner.

At the closing of the training, Eveline Odiambo, Regional Administrator, said that the new system will move IITA to greater

heights of accuracy in assets and reconciliation while reducing the amount of time spent previously on the exercise.

She thanked Gallena Investments for the training and urged the administration team to make use of the new system which will make their work easier.

...as regional hub partners with French Embassy on science and sustainable development exhibition marking IYB

A robot arm that doctors can use to remotely operate on patients. A device that uses solar power to generate electricity from water. A net that captures water from the air in the desert. Sounds like a child's fantasy solutions to the world's problem?

Well, these are some of the displays at an exhibition entitled 'The Earth's Future is in our Hands' in Dar es Salaam organized by the French Embassy and the Alliance Francaise partnering with IITA-Tanzania.

Organized to mark the International Year of Biodiversity, the exhibition showcases scientific solutions to some of the major environmental, economic and social challenges currently facing humanity.

The two-week interactive exhibition was launched on Tuesday, 24 August at the Alliance Francaise. Guest of honor was Hein Bouwmeester, IITA GIS Specialist.

In his speech, Bouwmeester thanked the two institutions for organizing and financially supporting the event adding that IITA was honored by their invitation to partner with them.

"I hope this exhibition will raise awareness of the many problems our Earth is facing, especially to the young people who are the leaders of tomorrow. Past generations have not done a very good job in caring for our environment. I hope you will do a better job," he challenged the youth present at the launch.

Also speaking at the launch, Jihane Giraud, Attaché for Science and Higher Education at the French Embassy, said the exhibition aimed to highlight the contributions of science to sustainable development - development that meets our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

"With our advanced knowledge, we can understand the risks the Earth and its peoples face: the greenhouse effect, desertification, growing urbanism, water pollution, and threats to biodiversity. Research provides us not just with diagnoses, but also with opportunities that can be reproduced ecologically, are socially fair and financially viable," she added.

The exhibition had three themes: 'living with our environment'; 'Tomorrows consumption and production'; and 'responsible management of resources,' shows how science can provide humankind with better tools to manage the earth's resources.

Also present at the exhibition was Didier Martin, the director of Alliance Francaise, members of the diplomatic community and students from various schools in Dar es Salaam.



(Left) Members of the public keenly looking at displays at the interactive exhibition. (Right) Bouwmeester addressing attendees at the opening ceremony of the exhibition