



IITA

Youth Agripreneurs

Agriculture is the future

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IITA launches Makueni Youth Agripreneurs



DG-IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, with some staff of the Management team and IITA Youth Agripreneurs at the launch of Makueni Youth Agripreneurs in Kenya

As part of its vision to engage youths in agriculture with clear indications of ending youth unemployment in Africa, the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) on 10th of March 2015, launched the Makueni Youth Agripreneurs (MYA).

The launching which was held at the IITA office, ICIPE headquarters in Kasarani, Nairobi was another step taken by IYA which is the pilot group in Ibadan, to actively engage Kenyan youths in agriculture.

In his welcome address, Dr Victor Manyong, Director of Eastern Africa IITA, reiterated the fact that agriculture remained the only means of creating decent employment and driving development. He stressed that unless African leaders recognise this fact and effectively make use of its youths, development would be at zero level.

Dr Manyong stated that in view of this, IITA under the leadership of Dr Nteranya Sanginga introduced the IITA Youth Agripreneur (IYA) in order to actively engage the youth and also to transform the agricultural sector in Africa.

He said that the launch of the MYA was however an important step in the development of the program which according to him would be extended to other parts of Kenya in the near future.

"The MYA will strengthen the Eastern Africa hub and will join the network of

the IYA lead in Ibadan" he said. Urging the youths to be science driven in their activities, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, Director General of IITA, said the Makueni youth should make use of the facilities and the training at their disposal to contribute their quota towards the fight against aflatoxin in some areas in Kenya. He added that the activities of MYA would complement the effort of the aflasafe™ project which would commence soon in Kenya.

Going down memory lane, Dr Sanginga stated that the pioneer group of IYA in Ibadan started from zero level but is now gradually climbing the ladder towards success through innovations, and dedication.

"You can easily influence policy makers through your activities. If you are serious and dedicated, they would want to be identified with you and before you know it, they will support your cause," he stressed.

The Guest of Honour at the launching, Mr Oscar Musembi, who represented Makueni County expressed delight that such initiative of engaging youths in agriculture took off in the county area. He stated that the Makueni county government had been working hard to stem the tide of unemployment.

"Part of what we are doing is to provide 25 million shillings credit at 3 % rate to interested youths for them to start

their business," he said. He said that the government of Makueni would partner with MYA in scaling out the fish pond already existing in the county.

He urged the youths to show commitment to the scheme and be ready to pay the price to make the vision a reality in the country.

Commending Dr Sanginga and IITA for bringing the MYA initiative to Kenya, Prof Nancy Karania from the University of Nairobi said the initiative would put an end to the issue of unemployment in the country. She said it saddened her heart when young graduates who had gone through school find it difficult to get employment after graduating. "Seeing youths in Kenya roaming the streets makes me sad especially as a mother. When you see able youths around idle after school, your heart bleeds. Sanginga has however made me happy now because he has thought of something that will occupy these youths and has brought it down here to us," she said.

She however called on the youths to take up the challenge of rescuing Africa from hunger by producing food that would cater for all and sundry.

Pledging support for the youths, Prof Geoffrey Kironchi also from the University of Nairobi said members of MYA would be fully supported by the university in the area of research. He stated that the resources of the university were at their disposal to explore for maximum results. He added that it was glad to note that youths are now going back to the basics. This, according to him, will help in managing the natural resources.

"Youths do not want agriculture. Their perception about agriculture is bad. They see it as a dirty job hence most of them do not want to go into it. But now, they have identified that agriculture is essential," he said.

He stressed the need for the group to influence policies on food production, packaging and sales through their activities. "We produce so much food in Africa and one of the challenges is

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how we market this food," he said. The Makueni Youth Agripreneur (MYA) were joined by their colleagues from Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda for the launch. While showcasing the success of the group so far, IYA representatives from Nigeria, Ibironke Ifedayo and Adenmosun Adetola said the group was

not resting on its oars as much would still be achieved.

Commenting on behalf of the group, the leader, Sylvia Nthenya said MYA was based on the vision of enhancing income generation through agriculture and creating youth employment with the ultimate goal

of finding lasting solutions to hunger and poverty.

MYA which is registered under the Kenyan Ministry of Gender and Social Services will make use of the University of Nairobi's facility, Kibwezi dryland field in Makueni County which had been abandoned for 10 years.

CGIAR Consortium CEO visits IITA Youth Agripreneurs



CGIAR Consortium CEO, Dr Frank Rijsberman with the IITA Youth Agripreneurs at the new Agriserve building

The Chief Executive Officer of CGIAR Consortium, Dr Frank Rijsberman said the IITA Youth Agripreneurs program was a good example of what the Consortium could adopt when focusing on youth.

Dr Rijsberman who visited IYA office during the Humidtropics conference at the IITA headquarters in Ibadan said he was impressed by the activities of the youths which also had strategies built around the Consortium's new strategy.

"I was very impressed by the dynamic presentations and self-confidence of the young graduates in IITA's Youth Agripreneur program. With

unemployment of young Nigerian graduates as high as 60-70%, this program aims to show that there is a future for young Africans in agriculture, that there is viable employment and an attractive career in catfish aquaculture, in soymilk production, yam sucker farms and cassava bread production," he stated.

The Director General of IITA Dr Sanginga, who initiated the youth agripreneur program expressed joy at the success recorded, while predicting that the program had potential to be scaled-up and -out, in Nigeria and other African countries. Dr Sanginga's vision is to create a program that will give a future

to millions of African youth through agriculture and the value chain in the agri-food business. The youth program has already gained attention from IFAD, AfDB, and the Nigerian government. "It is a good example of what the CGIAR can do when it focuses on youth—a very timely development with 'gender and youth' identified as a key cross-cutting issue in the new CGIAR strategy," Dr Sanginga said.

Dr Rijsberman was accompanied by Drs Ann Tutwiler, Director General, Bioversity International; Prof Roel Merckx, IITA Board Member; Timothy Williams; and Dr Nteranya Sanginga, Director General, IITA.



Right-Left (sitting): DG-Biodiversity International, Dr Ann Tutwiler; CGIAR Consortium CEO, Dr Frank Rijsberman; IITA Board member, Prof Roel Merckx; IWM's Africa Director, Timothy Williams and DG-IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, in the office of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs



Right-Left in front: DG-Biodiversity International, Dr Ann Tutwiler; CGIAR Consortium CEO, Dr Frank Rijsberman; DG-IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga; IITA Board member, Prof Roel Merckx and the Head of Communications, IITA, Andrea Gros, while taking a walk to the new Agriserve building

Nigeria launches program to support youths in agriculture across the country



Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria, Dr Akinwumi Adesina with the IITA Youth Agripreneurs in Abuja during the ATASP-Phase 1 launch

The Federal Government on Friday, 6 March 2015 launched the Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Program (ATASP-Phase1) towards attracting private sector investment, reducing post harvest losses while adding value to local agricultural produce.

Addressing stakeholders at the launch of the initiative in Abuja, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr Akinwumi Adesina said the project would cushion the costs of infrastructure while promoting agric value chain development of four Staple Crop Processing Zones to be implemented in Enugu, Anambra, Niger, Kebbi, Sokoto, Kano and Jigawa States. He said the program would add an additional 20,000 metric tons of key commodity crops per year while creating 200,000 new jobs for young people.

Under the ATASP-1, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) to develop outreach plans for capacity building of the youth across agricultural value chains, for cassava, rice and sorghum.

Under the MoU, three (3) Youths Training Centers will be established by IITA at Mijinjibir, Kubwa and Onne. The Centre at Mijinjibir will train youths from Kano, Jigawa, Kebbi and Sokoto states. The Centre in Kubwa will train youths from Niger State, while the Centre at Onne will train youths from Anambra and Enugu states.

Dr Adesina added that three years after the launch of the ATA, Nigeria's agriculture had become an African

success story." "Driven by policy and institutional reforms, and sharp focus on private sector growth; nutrient production in Nigeria expanded by an additional 21 million MT within the past three years. We took bold steps and ended a corruption of 40 years in the fertilizer sector within 90 days on the chore," he said.

Meanwhile the African Development Bank (AfDB) has backed the plan with an approval of \$170m to contribute to the aims of the ATASP-Phs1.

The Country Director, AfDB, Nigeria Field Office, Mr. Andoh Mensah, said this in Abuja during the ATA Support Program 1 and stone laying for the youth in agribusiness center organized by IITA. He explained that the project would capitalize on IITA's participatory approach and would train and retrain young men and women along the commodity value chains. He said the program was part of initiatives to

consolidate the bank's investments in agriculture in Nigeria.

Director General of the IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga promised that the Institute would work to ensure that the project gets results and impact positively on the transformation agenda.

IYA diversifies to pig farming

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs have diversified into piggery production. IYA will be producing "low fat" pork meat for its consumers.

After identifying the economic and nutritional benefits of pig, the Fishery and Livestock unit of IYA acquired 10 grower pigs with an initial average weight of 7-10kg at weaners stage (Breed: Large White and Duroc) for the purpose. The pigs are currently being raised at the International Livestock Research Institute's (ILRI) paddock facility in IITA.

IYA this year intends to commercialize its production by cross breeding the male and female pigs to produce piglets for sale.

The Fishery and Livestock unit has been supported from inception by ILRI giving technical back-stopping and advice to the group along with the Teaching and Research Farm of the University of Ibadan, and Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T). The group had earlier in the year paid a learning visit to IAR&T before venturing into the business.

Pork is in high demand in Nigeria and sells fast in the market. The meat is nutritious



Owoeye Molayo, on behalf of IITA Youth Agripreneurs, presents an award to Dr Akinwumi Adesina

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providing protein, fat, and a range of vitamins and minerals. It can be processed into different products apart from consuming the meat. Examples include ham, smoked bacon, pork sausage. Other

products are Scotch eggs, pork pies, pizzas and hot dogs among others. Pigs reproduce in large numbers and grow very fast, giving high returns on investments.



In front: Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Nigeria and Dr Akinwumi Adesina (M); DG-IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga (L), laying the first stone for the Youth in Agribusiness Centre in Abuja



Olaniyi Ajibola at the pig pen of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs

IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs to replicate model among Catholic parishes



Catholic Archbishop of Bukavu, DR Congo, Msgr Francois Xavier Maroy during his visit to IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs' office

The Catholic Archbishop of Bukavu, Msgr. Francois Xavier Maroy has called for the replication of IITA Kalambo

Youth Agripreneur (IKYA) project in all the Catholic parishes of Bukavu. Msgr Maroy who stated this during a courtesy

visit to the IKYA processing centre in Bukavu said the replication would help in engaging other unemployed youths in the area.

Impressed by the success of the group, Msgr Maroy revealed that the Catholic Church of Bukavu, would soon purchase and install processing machines for cassava and soya milk production for the Catholic youths.

He urged the youths not to relent and be more committed in the discharge of their duties.

The hand of partnership between IITA and the Catholic Church Bukavu was extended to the IKYA.

IITA Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs adopt the use of new technology



IITA Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs setting up the screen house for vegetable production

The IITA Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs (ITYA) have adopted the use of screen

house technology in their vegetable production. This development which

is part of ITYA's recent activity will be used to protect tomatoes against pests, diseases, and unfriendly climatic conditions that affect yields.

Under the supervision of IITA's Research Supervisor, Mary Maganga, the screen house will be used to control the environment of growing plants including temperature, light, and atmospheric humidity.

Although the screen house technology is presently a learning experience for the youth, they plan to initiate a similar technology on a larger scale at IITA's plot at Kwembe village in Kibamba ward, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

IITA Youth model excites Ghana High Commission

Ghana High Commission has described the IITA Youth Agripreneurs initiative as one worthy of emulation.

Ghana High Commissioner to Nigeria, H.E. William Azumah Awinador Kanyirige stated this when he recently paid a courtesy visit to IITA Youth Agripreneurs office in Ibadan. Mr Williams and his team were in



The Ghana High Commission's team and the IITA Youth Agripreneurs

IITA on a learning visit. He said the IYA initiative was the most interesting part of their learning tour around IITA. The High Commissioner said it was an amazing thing

to find dedicated young graduates embrace agriculture as opposed to white collar jobs in Africa. He stressed the importance

for other African countries to visit IITA to learn about the IITA Youth Agripreneurs initiative. H.E. Azumah said that although Ghana had a scheme that caters for young

unemployed graduate, there was still the need for the officials of the scheme to understudy IYA model, and replicate the

initiative in Ghana. His words, "There is a National Youth Scheme in my country that does this kind of things but once I return to Ghana now, I will inform the Director about this wonder, and they have to visit Nigeria Youth

Service Corps headquarters here in Nigeria so they can synergize on how to come here and learn," he said.

Makueni Youth Agripreneurs commence operation



Some members of the newly launched Makueni Youth Agripreneurs working on the Kibwezi farm

Activities have commenced at the Kibwezi farm of the Makueni Youth Agripreneurs.

The land which is a property of the University of Nairobi was acquired after a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between IITA and the University.

Although the 4,800 hectares of land had been abandoned for 10 years, it is gradually being cultivated by the MYA team with assistance from their technical adviser, Dr Paul Woomer.

Arriving at the Kibwezi farm on 11 March 2015, Dr Paul Woomer while taking Dr Nteranya Sanginga, the Director General of IITA on tour said the facility in Kibwezi had more potential for the youths to utilize. He added that some of the facilities which had been abandoned and wasting away due to lack of use were revived in 2 weeks.

Dr Woomer revealed that the abandoned office complex after renovation would be named the Makueni Youth Agripreneurs Enterprise Centre. He also said negotiations were already ongoing with the youths on

what to produce and how to market their produce from the centre.

"In marketing their produce, the youths will eliminate the middle men and deal directly with consumers themselves, while making use of the huge domestic demand for soybean. They will be involved in the value addition area of the produce for nutritional benefits of children and nursing mothers."

"Mombasa which is a tourist centre is just about 200 kilometres from here. The youths will approach hotels and liaise directly with them regarding sales. I will put options for these youths and allow them to decide on what they want to venture into," he said.

Also encouraging the youth to be steadfast during the facility visit, Dr Sanginga assured them of the support of the institute. He urged them to transform the field into a business attraction centre from what it used to be. "There is a lot of potential here and by the time it is transformed, lots of people will want to come here and associate with you. In a

few months time, you can turn your zero budget into something worthwhile," he said.

The Makueni youth who were joined by their colleagues from Nigeria, Uganda, and Tanzania planted birds-eye chilli pepper as their first crop. By venturing into this, the youths will be bridging the gap in market demand for the produce. The other agripreneurs also helped in clearing the screen house which was one of the facilities available for use by MYA on the field.

Also, the MYA will be making use of the irrigation system for vegetable production all year round. A fish pond will be dug in the field and the organic waste from the pond will be used as fertilizer for vegetables such as capsicum, egg plant, and cucumber.

Other pioneer crops of the MYA include maize, sorghum, and soybean. While targeting aflasafe™ as market for their sorghum, the MYA would also be venturing into value addition of their produce.

Moving on...

Two Pioneer members of IITA Youth Agripreneurs in Ibadan have proceeded to the United States of America and Germany for post graduate studies.

The duo, Bello Oluwatobi and Bekee Barituka, who joined the group in 2012 worked at the Partnership and Marketing arm of the organization.

Bello Oluwatobi, who was the Head of the Capacity Building Unit in the group, is a graduate of Plant Physiology and Crop Production from the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta (FUNNAB). He was part of the team that organized the 3 weeks intensive training for some youths in Borno State.

Bello worked with IYA for 2 years and later gained admission into the University of Goettingen in Germany to study Crop Protection.

Expressing gratitude for the skills gathered while working with the group, Bello stated that his experience with IYA



Bekee Barituka



Bello Oluwatobi

events organized by the group. He was part of the team responsible for forming and maintaining strategic alliances with IYA partners and stakeholders. As a leader, Barituka displayed exemplary traits worthy of emulation.

Speaking at

would be taken to the youth in other parts of the world.

Barituka Bekee, who is currently studying Economics at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, United States of America was the Head of Marketing and Processing Unit. Bekee joined IYA in 2013.

He facilitated several meetings and

the send-forth organized for the Agripreneurs, Barituka expressed gratitude to the Director General, Dr Nteranya Sanginga for the laudable initiative which is positioning youths in the positive direction.

The study program is part of possible outcomes of IYA. Other IYA members are expected to proceed for their MBA soon.

IITA Agripreneur to participate in 2015 Mandela Washington Fellowship



Eric Sika



Eric Sika, a youth agripreneur from IITA Kalambo Station, has been selected to participate in the 2015 Mandela Washington Fellowship for young African Leaders from

19 June 2015 to 6 August 2015. Prior to this fellowship, Eric graduated from the Catholic University of Bukavu with a bachelors degree in agronomy. The fellowship is a flagship program of President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). The

selection was keenly contested by a large number of youths

across Africa. Eric, having been selected, will study business and entrepreneurship for six (6) weeks at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. The study is expected to sharpen his leadership capabilities prior his attendance at the presidential summit in Washington towards the end of the summit where he will have an opportunity to interact with US leaders in fields of business, government and non-profit sector. Upon completion of the program in the US, the fellowship continues in Africa.

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs are proud of Eric Sika and we wish him well in this laudable phase of his life.

IITA Youth Agripreneurs move to new office building

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs have relocated from their former office at the FAO Yard to occupy one of the wings at the newly constructed Agriserve Building.

The state-of-the-art building, which is set for commissioning soon, is the first of its kind in the history of IITA. The ultra-modern building, which is sited at the Business Incubation Platform (BIP) area of the IITA headquarters in Ibadan, would serve as a conducive environment

for the agripreneurs to put to practice the knowledge gained in agriculture. The one-storey building designed with world class architectural standards has four wings which would be occupied by projects such as: BIP, Agriserve, Agripreneurs and the SARD-SC.

The construction of the building which started about 9 months ago was completed in record time as construction engineers worked day and night. The

total building area which is about 516m² has an interlocked paving stone parking space of about 969m². To meet up with the latest organizational building structure, the Agriserve Building also has two 60 persons capacity seminar rooms, a reception, about 20 offices, one board room, two 30 persons capacity open offices etc. From the first floor of the building, one can catch the beautiful glimpse of the IITA lake, forest, and other infrastructural facilities within the

premises. Since the relocation, many people on the campus have visited the

IYA office to get a glimpse of the facilities. Among the first visitors at the building on

completion was the wife of the Director General of IITA, Mrs Charlotte Sanginga.



Mrs Sanginga with the Agripreneurs in one of the IYA offices



Mrs Sanginga (right) checking the new Agriserve building



The new Agriserve Building

Profiles

Alarape Saheed Akinkunmi

I am a graduate of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology Ogbomosho (LAUTECH) where I obtained B.Tech



in Agronomy. I was posted to IITA for my NYSC where I worked with GRC (Genetic Resources Centre) Unit. I got to know about IYA during YADI conference which I attended, and I was impressed with how the gathering attracted various people from different academic backgrounds.

I joined IYA in December 2014 and ever since, my skills in working with people of diverse backgrounds has been enhanced.

I have also learnt value addition and now I see agriculture as a means of livelihood to the youths and a source of income generation to developing economies.

Bryans Musee Mwanzia

I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Nairobi. I was introduced to Makueni Youth



Agripreneurs' program by a colleague who had a good understanding of the program. The program seeks to address the global menace of

youth unemployment through youth empowerment.

Ajayi Oyinkansola Oyebola

My name is Ajayi Oyinkansola Oyebola. I studied Business Administration from The Polytechnic, Ibadan, and also Entrepreneurial



and Business Management from National Open University of Nigeria. I joined IITA Youth Agripreneurs in February, 2015 and it has given me an opportunity to know more about agriculture and I am glad to be in the midst of brilliant youths.

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Sylvia Nthenya

I am a Community Development graduate from Daystar University, Nairobi. I became part of the pioneer members of the Makueni Youth Agripreneurs



(MYA) after my 3-week visit to IYA in Nigeria in October 2014. My visit to Ibadan was a life-changing event as it opened my eyes to the opportunities in agriculture. My interaction with the IYA made me realize the different opportunities that are in agriculture, its value chains and its potentials to generate jobs and create wealth. Youth unemployment in Kenya is a menace and after seeing the number of youths employed through agriculture in IITA Ibadan, I was moved and felt the urge to be part of a similar model back in Kenya. Agricultural sector is the only sector that can offer employment opportunities to the ever-growing population of the youth. I am really passionate about the Youth Agripreneurs programme and this gives me reason to smile every day.

Asaju Oyindamola

I hold a BSc in Home Science and Management from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. I joined IYA in 2015 and it has been a



great experience so far. I now have an improved knowledge in agriculture and its practices. I hope to replicate this to millions of youths across the globe, making them understand that agriculture doesn't end on the farm.

Beatrice Peter

I am Beatrice Peter, a Scientist with great passion and expertise in agriculture. As an energetic youth, I am glad to be part of the Makueni Youth



Agripreneurs as it provides more avenues for self development, career advancement as well as personal

empowerment. The most motivating aspect in MYA is that it consists of young experts and professional from various disciplines and with such variability there will be enough room to learn new skills. It is actually the place to invest your energy. It is very promising and futuristic for us youths.

Alabi Oluwafunmilade Kelvin

I am a graduate of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Ilorin, Kwara State. I was posted to IITA during my NYSC where I worked at the



Facilities Management Services Unit (FMS). I participated in the YADI Conference where I got interested in IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA). I joined IYA in November, 2014. I believe agriculture will be the means of unlocking Africa's wealth of resources and I'm proud to be among the movement.

Elizabeth Mukulu Muema

I am Elizabeth Mukulu Muema. I studied Sustainable Human Development from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa.



Having specialised in Community Development and Project Management, I developed passion for improving livelihood. I am excited to have joined the group and I am confident that I can add value to the group as well as the society at large.

Ronard Ongaria

I am a graduate of Business Administration with IT, Finance option from Maseno University. My aim is to gain experience in a position that enables me to use



my skills and talents to the best of my capacity and develop myself and others. I passionately feel that IITA Makueni Youth Agripreneurs is the place to be.

Akerele Oluwaseun Mayowa

I hold a B.Sc in Biology Education from Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU). I was posted to IITA for my NYSC and I worked with the



Agronomy Unit. I got to know about IYA during the YADI conference which attracted people from various works of life. My goal is to impact lives through agriculture and to become relevant in future.

Gladys Nduku

I am Gladys Nduku, a graduate of Bachelor of Arts degree in Community Development. I joined Agripreneurs in November 2014.



I joined the group because I wanted a youth platform where we can discuss issues affecting young people and use locally available opportunities to address socio-economic challenges we face as young people. I believe this IITA youth program will give opportunities to other young people and the community in general to learn and rise to ping the available opportunities. I aspire to see self sustaining youths in Makueni County.

Tabitha Mutheu Muli

I'm a seed scientist, a graduate from Moi University. I became part of Makueni Youth Agripreneurs (MYA) in February, 2015. This is a pilot scheme that is



engaging youths in agriculture with clear signals of ending youth unemployment in Kenya. It is through MYA, which is working with IITA, that I will apply the theories learned in practical work in the field. I'm beyond doubt that I will empower myself, develop my skills from the professional diversity of the youths, and most of all, shift from job seeker to job creator. I invite our fellow young people to join us in developing entrepreneurial skills for profitable agriculture. With all confidence I say, I am where I belong.