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IITA

Youth Agripreneurs

Agriculture is the future

August 2017 Issue 27

Pioneer set in Masters of Business Administration (MBA) Agribusiness matriculate



Some members of IITA Youth Agripreneurs who are among the pioneer students of the MBA class

The pioneer students for the Masters of Business Administration (MBA) in Agribusiness at the University of Ibadan School of Business (UISB) matriculated on Saturday, 22 July for the 2016/2017 academic session.

The MBA program which has some members of IITA Youth Agripreneurs as its pioneer students was established in partnership with IITA based on

the institution's vast experience in agribusiness.

IITA, which currently runs a youth-in-agribusiness program in different locations within and outside Nigeria, will be providing first-hand experience and skills to candidates enrolled in the MBA under its Business Incubation Platform (BIP) in Ibadan. Through this, BIP will be offering agribusiness support and technical advice

agribusiness. The MBA in Agribusiness was introduced as part of the programs offered by the UISB in response to the paradigm shift in the agriculture sector becoming a sector of economic opportunity for all.

IITA's youth-in-agribusiness model and the Business Incubation Platform also serve as motivating factors for the institution. The MBA in Agribusiness is a two-year program.

along the agricultural value chains to agribusinesses, entrepreneurs, and start-ups.

IITA also offers an enabling environment for the students to carry out case studies and hands-on, practical internships on agribusiness. Agribusiness experts with many years of practical experience in the field and industry will also be serving as mentors.

Some of the scientists and experts in IITA have started tutoring the students on the technical know-how of

IYA and SLU global connect in Uganda to promote Agripreneurship



The IYA Uganda and SLU team during a round table discussion on ways of enhancing agribusiness

Building on the existing partnership with IITA, the Swedish University of Agriculture (SLU) is exploring areas of partnership with the IITA Youth Agripreneurs in Uganda on the youth agripreneurship program with some identified tertiary institutions in the country.

The team from SLU who were in Uganda for a week's workshop in Kampala, Uganda organized a competition on youth agrifood entrepreneurial projects and a four-day field trip to sustainable agribusiness entrepreneurship projects to encourage young Agripreneurs in the country.

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The leader of the SLU team, Dr Dekker Teun said the university's journey into agripreneurship started about four years ago when a team of students in the university met with the management to seek permission to ask if they could find and establish partnership and explorative visits with other Agripreneurs in other parts of the world.

He explained that it was during that time that the former Deputy Director General Research for Development in IITA, Dr Ylva Hilbur visited SLU and made a presentation about the youth in agribusiness initiative of IITA. The

presentation according to him stimulated the student's interest to visit IYA in Ibadan, Nigeria in 2015.

Impressed by what the young people in Nigeria are doing, the SLU team is also encouraged by the outstanding initiative of the IYA team in Uganda.

Making a presentation on the activities of the group in Uganda, the representative of IYA in Uganda, Beckie Nakabugo said the challenges faced by the team with middlemen ignited their passion to develop an online platform for selling their vegetables. The online platform

known as the vegetable basket gives the consumer an opportunity to place an order for freshly produced vegetables and have it delivered. The team bought a tricycle to ease their movement and prompt delivery of produce to their clients.

The partnership between the two institutions will strengthen north-south collaboration, identify the knowledge gap on the prerequisites of starting an agribusiness in different parts of the world, enable student exchange programs, and translate research-generated solutions into practical sustainable solutions.

IKYA partners with out-growers to expand maize flour business



The trained outgrowers displaying their certificate



Construction ongoing at the site of the factory in Kamanyola

From Murhesa to Kamanyola in the South Kivu Province of DR Congo, IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs (IKYA) has become a household name due to its ability to create jobs and business opportunities for young people in the area. IKYA started its maize flour business in 2016 by establishing a 7-ton capacity

maize processing facility in Murhesa but decided to expand in 2017 to meet up with the increased demand for the product from 50 percent to about 80 percent in 2017.

To address this, IKYA moved to Kamanyola—an area which is well known

for the production of maize grain and trained 50 young rural maize farmers in the production of disease-free maize grain.

These young farmers identified as Young Entrepreneurs of Kamanyola “Jeunes entrepreneurs de Kamanyola (JEK)” were impressed by the activities of IKYA and decided to partner with them in the establishment of a new processing center that will enhance the production capacity of IKYA and also generate more revenue for them as well.

Based on this, 25 members of JEK are co-investing with IKYA in establishing a maize flour processing center while 25 others are partnering with IKYA in the production of the maize grain that will be used as raw material to serve the center.

This partnership is expected to increase the production capacity of IKYA from 7 tons to 25 tons per week and expand the

supply of the product in the province. IKYA through this partnership will also be able to export the product to nearby countries like Rwanda and also help engage about 200 unemployed youth indirectly through production. The processing center is scheduled to start operation by September 15.

New-World Ugbameta - A Case of Change in Mindset



New-World Ugbameta

New-World Ugbameta became the highlight of the event during the commissioning of the A.A. Adesina Agripreneurs building in July. He received a lot of cheers while sharing his experience from being a Jaguda (miscreant) to a professional fish farmer.

He is one of the beneficiaries of the Chevron-sponsored project being implemented by IYA in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria. In 2015, IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) submitted its first self-written project proposal to Chevron Nigeria Limited to train unemployed young people in the Niger-Delta region with the focus of harnessing their energy towards sustainable agribusiness enterprise along the value chains of cassava, plantain, banana, and fish.

The proposal birthed the Community Youth in Agribusiness Group (CYAG) project which focuses on training youth in the Ijaw and Itsekiri communities to venture into agriculture as a business.

Ugbameta and forty other young people were taken through classroom training, field demonstrations, and most especially, explorative visits to successful agribusiness enterprises for them to have a change in perspective about how agriculture can be practiced on a commercial scale.

This explorative visit and training according to Ugbameta was the magic behind his change of perception about agriculture. Narrating his experience before his encounter with the team of young Agripreneurs from IITA,

Ugbameta stated that he was one of the miscreants used by vandals in the Niger-Delta region to create unrest and unnecessary havoc with oil workers who carry out their legitimate duty in the area.

"I am not one of the vandals but what they do is that they come to our area, hire us, pay us, and take us to the entrance of the oil companies and we would just start fighting and causing unnecessary problems just to distract the attention of the oil workers from monitoring their pipelines or going about their work. After the people finish with their operation, they will call us and everything will return to normal," he said.

Ugbameta's skin shows scars sustained from a series of stabs from sharp objects. He has lost valuables which according to him are unquantifiable when compared to the peanuts he and other youth have been paid after causing unrest.

This, according to him, would have continued if not for the intervention of IYA through the Chevron-sponsored project.

"When they asked me to come and participate in this training, I thought it was just one of the ones we did in the past where they will gather us and just give us money and nothing tangible will come out of it. But after we finished with the classroom training, they brought us to IITA in Ibadan and I saw where they were using electricity to fry garri. This really amazed me because in Niger-Delta, we use firewood. We were also

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Whenever they [vandals] call me, I just look at my phone and switch off. Sometimes I will tell them I am coming but I will just go straight to my ponds. This thing has really helped me and I am sure if it continues, many others like me in Niger-Delta can also be transformed.

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taken to another farm where I saw large hectares of cassava and people were on a long queue to buy the cassava. The field belongs to a young man so I said if this young man can do it, why can't I also make money from this thing," he added.

The CYAG team has been taught on the business aspect of the commodities and they have established fields based on their experience. Ugbameta's specialty is fish farming and he now manages a 20,000 capacity fish pond where he is waiting patiently for the harvest period. He stated that time spent on his farm in taking care of the catfish which he regards as his "babies" no longer permits him to respond to unnecessary scuffles.

In August, Ugbameta and his team sold over 4 tons of catfish while still maintaining other enterprises which are yellow and white root cassava fields, plantain fields, and a macro chamber where they multiply hybrid plantain suckers.

"Whenever they call me, I just look at my phone and switch off. Sometimes I will tell them I am coming but I will just go straight to my pond. This thing has really helped me and I am sure if it continues, many others like me in Niger-Delta can also be transformed," he stated.

He concluded by saying if the federal and state government would partner with IITA to train 1000 youth in the Niger Delta, pipeline vandalism and kidnapping would be a thing of the past and Niger Delta would join the food producing states in Nigeria.

More partners to collaborate with Chevron Nigeria Limited to expand the CYAG project



CYAG youths with officials of Chevron Nigeria Limited at their plantain field in Itsekiri kingdom

though there were some doubts due to the nature of the area, and as to whether the beneficiaries would accept and support it, we are now on track and we are happy with what we have seen so far," he added.

The Monitoring and Evaluation officer for CNL, Mr Calistus Onwurah said the project would engage more partners to extend the benefit to other parts of Delta State.

The project was launched in 2016 to train 39 unemployed young men

Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) has stated that they are impressed by the impact created so far by the Community Youth in Agribusiness Group (CYAG) project which is currently running in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

The CYAG project which is sponsored by CNL is being implemented by the IITA Youth Agripreneurs.

Some delegates from Chevron who visited the locations of the project in the Ijaw and Itsekiri kingdoms in Warri, Delta State on an appraisal mission in July said they are amazed by the level of passion and change in attitude displayed by the unemployed young people in the area.

Speaking on the project, the social performance representative officer for CNL, Mrs Patricia Nesiama said although they were a bit sceptical about the success of the project due to the unwillingness and restiveness of the youth at the initial stages, they are now convinced that

youth can be productively engaged in agribusiness if given the right resources and training.

"Truth be told, having listened to them [the youth], there is a paradigm shift in their mindset. They now believe more in themselves, and there will be testimonies in this first set of young individuals. I see a shift in their mindset from depending on crude oil and oil-allied products, to agriculture. And based on their hands-on training, they are now seeing opportunities in it and are even determining the enterprises they want to establish," she said.

CNL's Community Engagement Coordinator Mr Happy Apai said seeing the young people become responsible agribusiness moguls was the aim of the project and they are impressed to see them towing the line.

"We are inspired that the program is coming up according to plan. Even

and women for the first phase in Ijaw and Itsekiri communities along the value chains of cassava, plantain, and fish through an incubation program and will run for 12 months.

The fields, which were established in June 2016, have improved the skills of the youth and provided practical experience in the management of plantain and cassava and fish production. The project has also exposed them to many opportunities they never knew existed along the value chains of the crops and fish production.

The youth currently manage a 10,000 capacity fish pond and two macropropagation chambers for plantain sucker multiplication, and have established cassava and plantain fields on about 3 hectares.

After the incubation program, the youth will develop business plans and set up enterprises along their value chains of interest.



A group photograph of CYAG Youths with delegates from Chevron Nigeria Limited

IYA launches Youth Agripreneurs program in Imo State



Governor Owelle Rochas Okorocha

Imo State Governor, Owelle Rochas Okorocha expressed the willingness of the State to partner with IITA in ensuring that the youth in Imo State benefit from the youth in agribusiness initiative championed by the institution.

The Governor stated this on Monday, 31 July during the official launching of IITA's youth in agribusiness incubation center piloted by IITA Youth Agripreneurs at the Imo state Polytechnic, Umuagwo.

Speaking further on the importance of the proposed partnership, Governor Okorocha said the majority of the food consumed in the State comes from the northern part of Nigeria thus, involving the youth in the state in agriculture will help reduce the high level of food importation and hunger in the State.

"In 2011 when I became the Governor, I was worried that everything we consumed came from the north and I started asking questions that what if our northern brothers fail to provide us with food, does it mean we would all starve? But in 2017, it was as if IITA shared in my worries and I am glad that they are using the youth in bringing an agricultural revolution in the State," he said.

According to him, the steps taken by IITA will go a long way in grooming the younger generation that will embrace agriculture as a business and help reduce food insecurity, hunger, unemployment, and promote national security. "Before we discovered crude oil, agriculture

created about 85 percent of decent jobs for people but everything has changed as the discovery of crude oil has brought us nothing than laziness, civil unrest, militancy, and an increase in the rate of unemployment especially among the youth," he added.

He stressed that a lot needs to be done to change the mindset of the youth so they can go back to the basics and realize that agriculture, through agribusiness, can provide better opportunities for them.

"I congratulate these IITA young millionaires because their mindset

has changed and that is what I want you to do to every youth in this state as well. With a changed mindset, a tricycle rider can become a wealthy farmer just like the IITA Youth Agripreneurs. If these young people groomed by IITA can do it, I see no reason why every other youth in the state cannot do the same," he said.

While responding to the Governor, the Head of IITA station in Onne, Dr Richardson Okechukwu said IITA is ready to extend its technologies in agriculture to the farmers and youth in the state. He added that piloting the youth in agribusiness training center

in the southeastern part of the country was one of the ways of extending IITA's mandate to the people of the region. He said more youth in the State will have the opportunity to be trained in agribusiness once the ENABLE youth program kicks-off in Nigeria.

The Rector of the host institution—Imo state Polytechnic, Rev. Fr. Wence Madu said IYA has made a lot of impact within a short period of existence in the State.

"My students are amazed by what these young people are doing and I am surprised that many of them go the incubation facility to offer assistance during their leisure time. By doing this, they are also learning," he said.

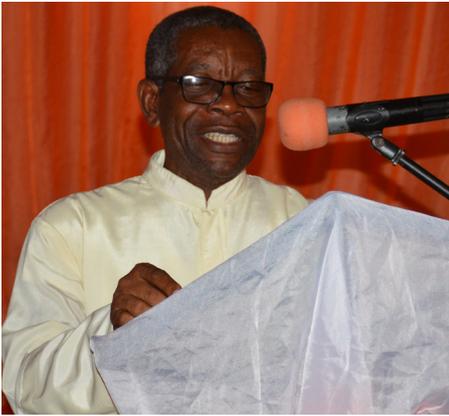
Delivering a speech on behalf of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs in Imo, Silver Ahanonu, an intern with the IYA Imo team said their activities in the last 6 months of existence have been commendable. Silver who is an electrical engineer added that the people of Imo marveled at their produce.

"Part of what we do is horticulture and we produce tomato, cucumber, and pepper in a 5000 m2 greenhouse. Anytime we take the tomato to the market to sell, the think it is imported from South Africa or the north. They don't believe it was grown in Imo. But what we do is to take pictures of our tomato and our activities in the greenhouse to convince them. We also produce egg which we sell daily but it is difficult to meet demand. For the tomato, we have a projected revenue of 1.5 million naira per cycle as we plan

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Governor Owelle Rochas Okorocha visits one of the fish ponds established by the Imo team



Rector of Imo State Polytechnic Rev. Fr. Wence Madu



Silver Ahanonu delivering her speech



IITA Youth Agripreneurs-Imo with staff of IITA and Imo State Polytechnic

to produce all year round with our irrigation facility.

It may interest you to know that in January 2017, the team from IITA led by the DG, Dr Sanginga and the Director of Agriculture and Agro-allied Dr Chiji Ojukwu visited Imo to explore areas of expanding the youth initiative in the south-eastern part of Nigeria.

The team discovered some abandoned poultry, fish, and horticulture facilities at the state polytechnic that could be used to train the youths and also establish enterprises. Some youths were transferred from IYA in Ibadan and Abuja to Imo and within 6 months, they renovated and stocked 23 ponds with 10,000 catfish with a revenue projected at 13 million naira, they also stocked 3,000 capacity poultry with 2,940 broiler and layer birds with an egg production of 24 crates daily, and a 5000m2 greenhouse with tomato, pepper and cucumber.

They have also cultivated 15 hectares of soybean and 50 hectares of cassava.

They are currently training 11 unemployed graduates who just completed their National Youth Service Corp Scheme.

IITA Youth Agripreneurs-Imo, making impact



One of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs in Imo, Dolapo Omokanjuola with the group's harvested tomato from the greenhouse

In January 2017, a team from IITA led by the Director General, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, a few members of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA), and AfDB's Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, Dr Chiji Ojukwu paid a working visit to Owerri to explore the possibilities of establishing the first youth in agribusiness incubation center in the southeastern region of Nigeria in Imo State.

On arrival in the State, the team discovered some abandoned facilities that

could be used in the training of youth along the agricultural value chains and also used in establishing self-sustainable, profitable agribusiness enterprises that will generate income for the youth and enhance food production in the region.

The abandoned facilities located at a place identified as Poultry Island at the Imo State Polytechnic, Umuagwo have a 3000-capacity poultry and brooding house, 27 concrete ponds, cassava processing plants, and large hectares of land surrounding the area.

The property according to sources became non-operational due to inadequate funds and lack of proper management.

With the permission of the State Government and the Governing Council of the institution, the visiting team decided to renovate these facilities to be used for the intended purpose.

Swinging into action, six Agripreneurs led by Icheku Okwurumeya were redeployed from headquarters in Ibadan and Abuja to replicate the IYA model focusing on youth training and establishing businesses along the value

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was too big now looks small because we have not been able to meet our demand. If we had 2 or more greenhouses like this, we would be able to manage it well and generate more revenue," she stated.

Stocking 23 out of the 27 renovated ponds with 10,000 pieces of catfish, the young Agripreneurs have projected a revenue of 13 million Naira and a net profit of 6 million Naira for the first cycle.

Venturing into egg production through its poultry enterprise, the team now sells 24 crates of egg daily. To start the production, they stocked the 3000 capacity poultry with 2900 broilers and layers and within a space of 3 months of operation, they have generated 5.5 million Naira.

"This capacity is too small for us now. We have a customer who wants us to be supplying her with 50 crates per day. We have not been able to meet her demand let alone others. We rotate our supply to ensure that every customer is catered for. Our broilers are taken to hotels and restaurant and the demand is increasing. We are thinking of expanding if we can get more abandoned facilities in the area," says Ojoniyi Doyin, one of the Agripreneurs in Imo.

The youth in agribusiness incubation center is a replication of what operates in IITA Ibadan where unemployed young graduates are trained on chosen agricultural commodities.

The team currently have 11 interns who are being trained on the value chains of the commodities. The incubation period, which spans for 12 months, also exposes the interns to business, leadership, and managerial skills. After 12 months of training, the interns are expected to develop business plans for funding by financial institutions.

The activity of the IYA in Imo is changing the perception of the youth of the host community about agriculture. They have been able to sensitize the farming population in the area on the need to encourage their youth to embrace agriculture as a business and not a way of life.



Crates of harvested tomatoes from the greenhouse

chains of poultry, fishery, horticulture, cassava, and soybean.

Starting from zero, the Agripreneurs have been able to record milestones in the delivery of their task.

Using a 5000 m2 abandoned greenhouse at the Anambra-Imo River Basin Development Authority, the team has been able to change the narrative about tomato production in the state. The tomato consumed in the State comes majorly from the north and the people of Imo State are finding it difficult to believe that the tomato sold by the youth is actually not from the north. In some cases, the tomato was mistaken for an imported South African variety due to its taste and look.

Sharing her experience, Omokanjuola Dolapo, one of the Agripreneurs said she gets excited whenever she takes the tomato to the market for sale.

"I was trained using a 2000 m2 greenhouse in Ibadan and anytime I work in it, I feel happy. But when I got to Imo and I saw the 5000 m2 greenhouse, I was amazed and I started thinking of how to make good use of the skills acquired in Ibadan. Together with my

team, we planted tomato, cucumber, pepper, and squash in the greenhouse. We have good yields of everything we planted. Our cucumber is what the mallams now prefer but the most exciting is the tomato. The people of Imo never believed tomato could grow in the State. At first they said we were bringing it from Kano. Some even said we were importing from South Africa and retailing it but I am always happy whenever we show them the pictures of our activity in the greenhouse and they are amazed. Some of them even visited us to see how we do it and they are always impressed that such could happen through young people like us," she said.

The tomato production which started about 3 months ago is projected to generate a sum of 3 million naira.

Dolapo said the team can triple the revenue if supported with additional facilities.

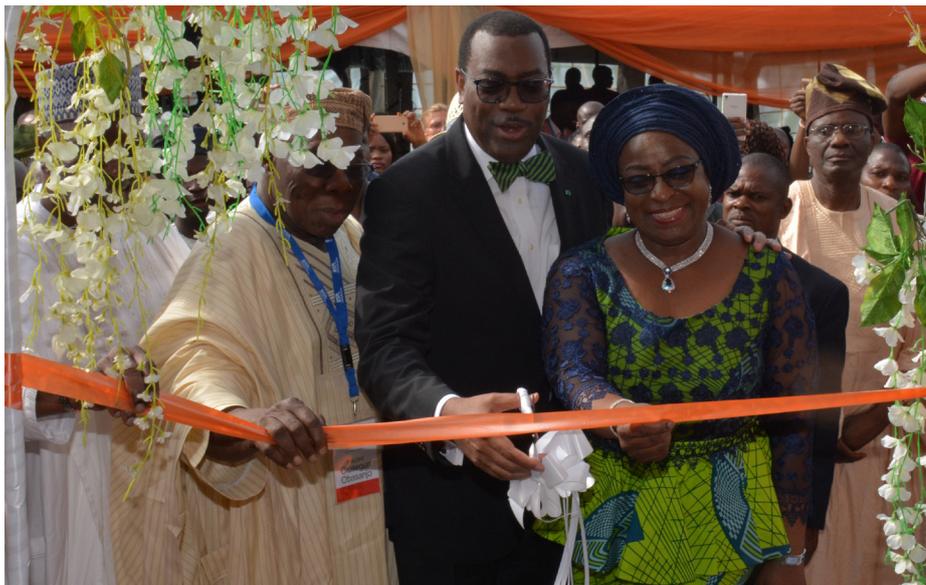
"We are making good sales and so far, we do not have problems with pests and diseases because we take pre-cautionary methods and abide by the agronomic practices for each crop. But I will like to say the greenhouse which I thought

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Your future does not lie in the Mediterranean Sea - Dr Akinwumi Adesina



L-R, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, Dr Akinwumi Adesina and Mrs Adesina commissioning the Akinwumi Adesina Agripreneurs Building”

On the 24 July, all roads led to the Business Incubation Platform (BIP) area of IITA for the commissioning and naming of the Agriserve building.

The Agriserve building, which is occupied by the IITA Youth Agripreneurs, is named after the President of the African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, who has been a strong supporter and mentor of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs.

Dr Adesina, while addressing guests and other dignitaries at the event, expressed his happiness as IITA has deemed it fit to write his name in the sands of time by naming the first youth-in-agribusiness building in Africa after him.

“I am humbled and deeply appreciative to have my name on this well-equipped

building that will be used by young Agripreneurs to learn, to set up, to launch their own businesses, and create a prosperous living for themselves, their families, and those that they will employ. I believe in the power of ideas and the passion to transform ideas into reality. I also believe in investing in those that have a strong vision, a vision so strong that even bulldozers can never knock it down,” he said

Speaking further, Dr Adesina stated that the future of African youth is brighter in agribusiness if given the necessary support by institutions, government, and individuals, and not on the Mediterranean Sea or in the desert where many go in search of a greener pastures to Europe. “I want to say in the next 30 years, the GDP of Africa would rise by 500 billion dollars a year if we are able

to create jobs for young people in Africa. The GDP per capita of Africa would rise by 55 percent every year for the next four years and rise another 50 percent every year until 2050 if we can actually address what President Obasanjo said about investing in the youth,” he added.

In view of this, he said the Bank is passionate about the issue of the African youth and has deemed it fit to invest \$24 billion to help boost the agricultural sector over the next 10 years across Africa.

The investment according to him is 400 percent more than what the Bank invested in the past and will focus more on agricultural value chains, agro-industrial development, and investment in the young generation of farmers.

“Last year AfDB invested 800 million dollars in the ENABLE Youth program in eight countries and we are moving it into 15 countries this year. These Agripreneurs from different countries deserve our full support. That is why the Bank is looking into the establishment of a private equity fund to specifically help these sets of young people. I can guarantee you that we would do everything possible for you to succeed with those businesses you have,” he said.

Agriculture according to him must change through engagement of the youth.

“We must change our approach to helping young people. Modern agriculture has changed globally with digitally enabled agriculture, precision farming, hydroponics, and robotics, so farmers of the future must be fully educated. When I visited IITA, I noticed that they were using drones to monitor their fields and what they are trying to do is to collect critical digital information that will help them improve productivity of their fish farm etc.,” he stressed.

He, however, called on the private sector to emulate IITA by prioritizing investment in youth and creating platforms that will help create jobs for them in Africa.

“IITA under the leadership of Dr Sangina took up this youth in agribusiness initiative and developed, nurtured it, and groomed these Agripreneurs. Throughout my time as a Minister, I visited these Agripreneurs and some people at that time wondered what IITA—a research institute was doing in



General Olusegun Obasanjo addressing the Youth Agripreneurs

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training young people in agriculture. In my view, IITA saw the future. They saw the need to change the labor composition of the agricultural sector with younger commercial farmers and agribusinesses and I think that is worthy of emulation," he added.

Giving practical examples of some young people who have excelled in the

ag-space, Dr Adesina stated that many of them would have become helpless if they had not been given an opportunity to innovate.

There is a young man named Noel from DRC; he and his team are making High Quality Cassava Flour and in a week, they earn \$4,000. When I invited them for a talk with our board members, they

made it known to me that they will be making \$10,000 a week in the next 1 year. Temitope Aroge is a Medical Doctor and he is into cassava. He has 300 hectares of farmland. He has dropped his stethoscope and has gone back to the farm as an Agripreneur. Hauwa Bello is from Adamawa State. When I was a Minister, she got a grant of 5 million naira. She came to my office and was in tears. She said her friends told her that there is no way she wouldn't know anybody in government to get a grant of 5 million naira. I handed her the cheque. At that time, she had a small shop where she makes bags. Fast forward two years; this young lady was invited by the London Fashion Week to come and showcase her bags in London. I took samples of her bags to the Federal Executive Council and handed them to all the women there. Her bags are better than Gucci bags. Just several months ago, I turned on the television, and there was a special edition on CNN and who were they featuring, Hauwa Bello. And I learnt that she went to New York fashion show and her bags were placed aside with Gucci bags. Gucci is now planning to hire her," he said.



Poster presentation by Youth Agripreneurs inside the building



Tosin Olaniyi presenting an architectural model of the AAA building to Dr Adesina



L-R, Mr Tonye Cole, Mrs Nwanze, Dr Kanayo Nwanze, General Yakub Gowon, Dr Adesina and Mrs Adesina in a group photograph after the commissioning of the building

Also speaking at the event, the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and an ambassador of IITA, HE Olusegun Obasanjo said the IYA model should be replicated in other parts of Nigeria and Africa at large.

Abisola Adedigba, an Agripreneur who also delivered a speech on behalf of Agripreneurs stated that their journey into agripreneurship was a challenging one but was worth it. She said some of her colleagues have been able to establish independent profitable agribusiness enterprises after their incubation program in IITA.

She said the fish enterprise operated by the team in Ibadan generates about \$87,000 per cycle. The renovated greenhouse in Imo used for tomato and other vegetables now generates about 1.5 million naira per cycle. The team in DR Congo who are well known for their well-packaged High Quality Cassava Flour product generate a sum of \$4,000 per week.

She expressed optimism about the future of African agriculture as many of them are poised to ensure that they create jobs through agribusiness.

The ceremony witnessed the presentation of gifts, testimonies from Agripreneurs, and a debate session on the topic "Agribusiness start-up for youth, Loan vs grant".

IKYA gains recognition in AU



IKYA representative, Jerome Mulumbu (4th from right) with other participants at the meeting

The African Union Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) has identified IITA Youth Agripreneurs Kalambo (IKYA) as a key partner in its effort to create equitable social and economic development in Africa through fish farming.

The fish enterprise team of IKYA was invited in July to Accra, Ghana by the AU team to share their experiences and help develop guidelines for enhancing extension services and aquaculture business models in Africa.

Speaking during the workshop, which had other giants in the aquaculture industry in Africa, representative of IKYA, Jerome Mulumbu said if every fish farmer has access to resources and the market, the continent would be recognized as

one of the largest producers of fish in the world.

Other factors highlighted include: inadequate skills and technical know-how, inappropriate policies, and lack of business skills and enterprise development.

Sharing their experience on fish farming, Jerome stated that the team in Bukavu started with 5 ponds but expanded to 20 to meet the commercial demand of the commodity. According to him, all these were possible due to the support, training, and exposure of his team to modern fish farming techniques.

He stressed that IKYA also trained young men and women to help them generate decent income and create jobs for other

unemployed youth through fish farming

Speaking on the impact created by IKYA so far, the AU-IBAR Head of Mission, Prof Ahmed El-Sawalhy said the AU was pleased by the activities of the young people in the South-Kivu Province.

"I know you're asking why we invited a youth to this meeting and I also know Jerome may ask where I got his contact

and how I heard about you but the answer is simple: your actions have spoken for you. Your activities in your area have given your group the needed prominence. I am sure with your dynamism and commitment you will revitalize fish farming in DRC and surely contribute to change the trend in the growth of aquaculture production, which is still low and contributing only 2% of the continent's total fish production that is estimated to be about 10 million. I am very proud of all of you especially the youth groups in DRC," he said.

Other participants included Handson Fish Farm from South Africa, Ferme Piscicole from Mali, Skretting Nutreco Company from Nigeria, AMA from Morocco, ONE Afrique avenir from Cameroon, and Projet de promotion des entreprises aquacoles (PPEA) from Cameroon.

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