

## IYA records emergence of new CEOs

**M**ore young Chief Executive Officers of agribusiness enterprises are springing up after the completion of their incubation program with the IITA Youth Agripreneurs in December

2017. The youth, who were trained and mentored on the business opportunities available in production, value addition, marketing of agricultural commodities, and service provision are adopting

the lessons they have learned during their training to create businesses and generate sustainable income. For this edition, we are featuring the following new CEOs: Adenike Adigun and Temitope Adeniyi.



Adenike Adigun

**Adenike** is a graduate of agronomy from Ladoke Akintola University in Ogbomosho. She was posted to serve at the Agronomy Unit of IITA in 2014, and had the opportunity to be among the few applicants selected for the incubation program of IYA in 2015. During her training, Adenike developed interest in catfish smoking and joined a team of agripreneurs who operated the business as a pilot enterprise.

Operating under the name A.D. Foods and Farms in Ibadan, the business started in January 2018 and produces smoked catfish and plantain flour. Adenike started the business with her savings, and she is

poised to make a difference as she has developed a business plan to facilitate her access to loan for the expansion of her business. She is open to partnership and investment opportunities from potential investors.

She has employed three short-term staff who help in the production of the smoked fish and plantain flour. The plantain flour is packaged in 1kg, 2kg and 5kg bags. The smoked catfish is also available in 250g, 500g and 1kg.

For more enquiries on the product, kindly reach Adenike on +23481051149492 and +2348181062149.



Temitope Adeniyi

**Adeniyi Temitope** is a graduate of Agricultural Extension and Management from the Federal College of Agriculture in Akure. He joined the incubation program in 2016, and worked with the Root and Tubers Unit of IYA where he was trained on the value chain of cassava and plantain.

During his training, Temitope managed a 150-hectare cassava farm for Senator Abdullahi Adamu, Senate Committee Chairman on Agriculture in Nassarawa.

In pursuing his dream of becoming an entrepreneur in the agricultural sector, Temitope ventured into processing of plantain by producing a product known as Nectar Chips.

The business, which started in December 2017, operates within Ibadan metropolis and has grown within a short period of time with a production capacity of 5-20 dozens per day.

Temitope says the request for his product is amazing as he is still struggling to meet his demand due to his production capacity. Temitope gets a demand of 50 dozens of the product per day.

He is also open to partnership and investment opportunities. His dream is to compete with major producers of the product in Ibadan while his vision is to ensure that Nectar chips become a household name in Nigeria.

For more enquiries, kindly reach Temitope on +2348149822775



# Celebrating IYA Imo at 1



*Imo Youth Agripreneurs with the Technical Adviser to the youth, Dr Paul Woomer*

During early 2017, IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) moved to Imo State to establish an incubation center where young people in the South-Eastern part of Nigeria can have the opportunity to be enlightened, trained, and equipped with agribusiness skills.

The decision, which was prompted by the state government's call on the management of IITA to establish a model which can gainfully employ young people in the state in agriculture, served as an opportunity for IYA to extend its tentacles and fulfil its vision of ensuring that youths in all the geopolitical zones in Nigeria tap into the benefits available in agriculture and enhance food production in the area.

To demonstrate its willingness to ensure that the state becomes a beneficiary of the IYA program, the state government through the Executive Governor, Rochas Okorocha released some abandoned facilities-- fish ponds, poultry, and a greenhouse at the Imo State Polytechnic Umuagwo to IITA to be used by the youth for the incubation program.

To this effect, IITA deployed six experienced agripreneurs from Ibadan and Abuja to renovate and resuscitate the facilities and display the viability of the horticulture, fish, and poultry enterprises. Once the scope of operation was understood, 10 additional corp members who served in IITA with four locally recruited youth in the host community were dispatched to assist

in conducting the pilot enterprises. Within 3 weeks of deployment, the agripreneurs restored five large poultry houses and 20 concrete fish ponds. A 5000m<sup>2</sup> greenhouse that was abandoned at the Anambra-Imo River Basin Development Authority facility at Agbala was also renovated for the production of vegetables, tomatoes and cucumber.

Sharing the experience of their operation in Imo State, one of the agripreneurs, Dolapo Omokanjuola, who is into horticulture says she is proud to be a part of history in Imo State.

"I was trained using a 2000 m<sup>2</sup> greenhouse in Ibadan and anytime I work in it, I feel happy. But when I got to Imo and I saw the 5000 m<sup>2</sup> 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 tomatoes, 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 tomatoes. The people of Imo never believed tomatoes 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.

To meet up with the market demand, the team erected another 1000sqm greenhouse to expand its production.

The Governor of the state, Rochas Okorocha, who also visited the incubation facilities and enterprises of the youth in 2017 said he was fascinated by the progress made by the young people.

"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.

The former Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industries at the African Development Bank, Dr Chiji Ojukwu, who also visited the youth during his backstopping mission to young agripreneurs in Nigeria, advised the youth to contribute in changing the narrative about the agricultural sector.

"Our hope is seeing individual Agripreneurs starting something with the resources to be provided for them. Institutions will give you money either as loan or grant to start or expand your businesses. Be steadfast and do valuable things with it. Be focus in this course that you have chosen and I can assure you that the sky is the starting point for you," he said.

Currently, the youth sell over 720 crates of eggs per day. They have sold over 4 tons of fish and also ventured into catfish smoking. They also cultivated 37 hectares of land for cassava and 8 hectares for soybean.

As they brace up for the celebration of more years in agribusiness, it can be said that the activity of 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.





The Vice Chancellor of the Federal University Ndufu-Alike Ikwo (FUNAI) in Ebonyi State, Professor Chinedum Nwajiuba is impressed with the younger generation for exploring new ways of wealth creation, and breaking from job seeking to job creators.

Prof. Chinedum stated this in February during a visit to the office of IYA in Ibadan, Nigeria. The Vice-Chancellor, who regarded IYA as one of the most important units in IITA, commended IITA for creating a program that is stimulating the interest of the younger

generation in creating jobs in agriculture.

He said IITA had expanded its scope of research by engaging the youth who were the best agents to disseminate research and proven technologies. He added that the IYA model was a testament to the fact that if young people had institutional and technical support, they could be great entrepreneurs in agribusiness.

According to him, FUNAI will explore ways of partnering with IYA to broaden the scope of its entrepreneurship center.

## ENABLE Youth Sudan receives support from Government



*Signing of agreement with the Savings and Social Development Bank*

The state governments of River Nile, Gedaref, and Kassala in Sudan have expressed enthusiasm and commitment to be core drivers of the ENABLE Youth program in their respective states.

Speaking during a sensitization and Needs Assessment mission conducted by officials of the ENABLE project to the states, the officials solicited for the support of the state governments in ensuring an enabling environment for the incubation centers and businesses to thrive.

The leader of the ENABLE Youth project delegation, Dr Salih Khierallah while giving an insight into the project stated that ENABLE Youth which would run for 5 years would support the creation of 2000 agribusinesses in 5 states of Sudan using business incubation models. He added that by the end of the program, it was expected that 12,000 jobs would be created in the agribusiness sector, while graduates running businesses would each employ 5 other youths. On the support of the government of River

Nile, the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation & Forests, Engr. Omer Ahmed Elshikh noted that the state was ready to commit resources available including human and land to support graduate youths venturing into agribusiness.

In his words, "The program was timely as it aligned well with the state government's priorities of creating youth employment and it would complement efforts that were being made by other state institutions to curb the unemployment problem. I am assuring you that the state has ample resources especially land and human capacities that could be leveraged by the program to deliver desired objectives", he said.

In the state of Geradef, the Minister of Agriculture, Forest and Irrigation, Dr Abdalla Sliman said engaging the youth in agribusiness especially aquaculture would assist the state in bridging the gap between the production and demand of fish. He added that the state was importing up to 100 tons of fish from neighboring Ethiopia.

The ENABLE Youth program in Sudan is being implemented by the government of Sudan under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests with technical support being provided by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

## ENABLE Youth Program in Sudan partners with financial institution to seek start-up capital for beneficiaries of the program

The ENABLE Youth program in Sudan has partnered with the Savings and Social Development Bank (SDB) to facilitate access to funds for young Agripreneurs. The partnership will allow the youths to

access start-up capital to launch their independent agribusiness enterprises after completing their incubation program. The Minister for Agriculture and Forests, Dr. Abdeltif Ijaimy speaking further on the

partnership stated that it would transform agribusinesses noting that access to finance especially for the agriculture sector actor had been a huge challenge in Sudan.

*... continue on page 4*

### ...visits IYA on a familiarization visit and induction

The initiative according to him will contribute to the country's agenda to achieve the SDGs and reduce the high unemployment rate in Sudan. He added that the ENABLE youth program was well aligned to Sudan's development agenda articulated in the five-year development strategy which is anchored on the commitment to alleviate poverty and integrate young graduates in production cycles to enhance their standard of living and contribute more to the national economy.

The Bank is committed to providing financial literacy sessions to the youth as well as developing favorable financial lending opportunities for agripreneurs. The financing model adopted between the two institutions will further be replicated in other states to create massive community economic transformation.

In the same vein, as Sudan prepares for the full implementation of the ENABLE Youth Program, some selected National Project Coordination Unit officers (NPCU) will be visiting IITA headquarters in Ibadan for an induction and familiarization training of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs incubation model.

During the visit/training, which is slated to hold between 26-30th of March, IYA is expected to share its operational guidelines and experience on how it has successfully run incubation centers in Nigeria and other locations across Africa.

To achieve this, NPCU will work with IYA's capacity development unit in order to get a clear picture of the 18 months incubation cycle, which starts from mindset change activities to enterprise

selection and development training, as well as business development and management trainings. IYA's capacity development unit will highlight the effort made in enhancing the skills of the incubatees on business plan development and access to loans to facilitate the establishment of independent agribusiness enterprises.

The Sudanese team will also be taken through the some framework and tools that will facilitate the monitoring and evaluation activities of the project.

To evaluate the impact of the incubation model of IYA, the NPCU officers will also visit the independent enterprises established by the youths who were trained at the incubation center.

Among the enterprises to visit are Frotchery Farms, GraceVine, and Top Notch Poultry located in Ibadan, Oyo State.

## ENABLE Youth Madagascar pilot Program kicks off

In preparation for the kick-off of the ENABLE Youth Program in Madagascar, the IITA Youth Agripreneurs in February conducted an orientation exercise for the 34 selected youths to be trained under the pilot phase of the program in Madagascar.

The IYA team represented by Ifedayo Ibironke from Nigeria, Noel Mulinganya and Esperance Balezi from DR Congo organized series of sessions to enhance the skills of the youth on leadership, team building, understanding group dynamics, and organizational structure based on their experiences in project management and implementation.

The IYA team also enlightened the selected youths on opportunities available in agriculture such as the IYA pilot enterprises, communication and marketing, ICT in agriculture, importance of record keeping, and the essence of carrying out monitoring and evaluation activities.

The team also conducted some on-site assessment of the incubation centres to be used for training the selected participants of the ENABLE Youth Program.

The pilot phase of the program will be implemented with FIFAMANOR, a center for rural development and applied research under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Madagascar. Ten selected youth leaders for the program will visit IYA in Ibadan in April for a ToT workshop.



*Esperance Balezi taking the interns through a session on the importance of team work*



*A photo session of trainees*



# World Food Program (WFP) indicates interest to work with IYA in North-East Nigeria



*The team from WFP and IITA Youth Agripreneurs*

The World Food Program (WFP) has indicated interest to partner with the IITA Youth Agripreneurs in empowering displaced young people in the north-eastern part of Nigeria.

The leader of a delegation from WFP Myrta Kaulard, who was at the office of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs in Ibadan in January said the organization in

the past had looked for strategies on how to gainfully engage young people affected by the insurgency in the north-eastern part of Nigeria in opportunities that could create jobs for them and make them self-sufficient.

The team, which was pleased with the impact created by IYA in Borno State, said the team would leverage on the

lessons learnt and design a program that could address the needs of the displaced young people in terms of income generation and job creation using agribusiness.

Myrta commended members of IYA for their selflessness and willingness to extend the opportunities available in the agricultural value chains to youths in other locations.

In 2014, IYA had the opportunity to train some unemployed young graduates under the N2Africa Borno Youth Project. The youths who have established their agribusiness enterprise through the start-up capital provided in form of grant have

been able to employ 2 to 3 more people. Today, over 300 young people have been trained under the N2Africa Borno project. Consequently, 300 individual businesses and four cooperative business groups have been established. All the enterprises and business clusters are fully registered with the appropriate (national/state) regulatory agencies.

## IYA plans a Youth in Agribusiness model for Togo



*The President of Togo, Faure Gnassingbe with IITA and AfDB representatives*

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs is working on a plan that will create gainful employment for young unemployed

people along the agricultural value chain in Togo. The plan, which is to take the form of what has been tested with the

young people in IITA will give room for learning and mentoring in the chosen commodities. The appeal to replicate the IYA model came in January when a delegation from IITA visited the President of Togo, Faure Gnassingbe and his cabinet members to discuss modalities on how IITA could assist in rejuvenating the country's agricultural sector and engage the young people in agribusiness.

A representative of IYA, Molayo Owowe while making a presentation to the President and his cabinet members explained that the intervention of IITA in engaging young unemployed people in agribusiness had created jobs along the agricultural value chain.

The President, who was impressed by the success of the program, said he was optimistic that the IYA model could help address the issue of youth unemployment and diversify the country's economy.

# IITA, FAO explore areas of partnership on youth program



IITA staff with Madam Jewel Ciane Howard Taylor (center), the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia

cassava processing centers in strategic regions of the country.

Giving an insight into the effort made by IITA to engage the younger generation in revitalizing the agricultural sector in Africa, the Head of Youth in Agribusiness Office, Evelyn Ohanwusi said the organization had trained, mentored and coached young unemployed people to embrace agriculture as a business and create jobs and wealth through the value chains. Using the Imo State Agripreneurs

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is partnering with IITA in the redevelopment of the Tumutu Agriculture Vocational Training Center (TAVTC) located in Salala District, Liberia.

FAO is leveraging on the expertise of IITA on its youth in agribusiness model - IYA to: Renovate the facilities of TAVTC, design profitable pilot enterprises that thrive in the region, conduct experiential learning for youth interns in all areas of agribusiness, assist departing interns to develop independent business plans around the experiences gathered, and carry out technical backstopping and mentoring for the interns.

The project, which is expected to run for 2 years and 6 months, serves as a platform to expand and complement the youth-led agribusiness incubation model planned under the African Development Bank (AfDB) ENABLE Youth Liberia Project, which is being developed by the government of Liberia.

The Representative of FAO, Mr Jepson Momo, who received IITA's delegation

led by Dr Kenton Dashiell in Liberia stated that IITA had done well by creating IYA, which is setting a career path for young people in agriculture.

He expressed optimism that the adoption of the model in Liberia would assist in engaging the under- and unemployed youth in the regions in establishing profitable enterprises in agribusiness. He added that through this, the youth who constitute about 65% of their population would contribute to the GDP of the country and earn decent living through agribusiness.

Also speaking at the office of the Vice President of the country, Dr Kenton Dashiell stressed that IITA had been in the business of transforming African agriculture for the past 50 years. He added that IITA through a project known as the Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) distributed high yielding cassava varieties and planting materials to farmers in the country. He stated that the organization had also helped in establishing six fully equipped

approach as a case study, Evelyn explained that the proposed approach for the TAVTC, would go a long way in assisting the country to engage its young people.

While appreciating IITA for a job well done in the area of agriculture and youth engagement, the Vice President, Madam Jewel Ciane Howard Taylor pledged her support in ensuring that the project is achieved and sustained, with other youth projects like that of the West Africa Agricultural Transformation Program (WAATP), and ENABLE-Youth. She however pleaded that the project be extended to other centers like Monrovia Vocational Training Centre (MVTC), Montserrado County; Klay Youth Centre, Bomi County; and the Panama Agricultural and Vocational Training Centre in Sinoe County.

She also promised to visit one of the SAPEC cassava processing center renovated by IITA in Bensenville Montserrado County.

Other IITA staff on the delegation included Drs. Edet Michael (Extension Agronomist) and Awoyale Wasiu (Postharvest Specialist).

**Save the date: 9-11 April 2018**  
**IITA Youth Agripreneurs Triannual Training**  
**on Catfish Production and Management**  
A.A. Adesina Agripreneurs Building  
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)  
Ibadan, Nigeria