



**IITA**

**Youth Agripreneurs**

*Agriculture is the future*

# BULLETIN

Issue 33 September, 2018

## Agripreneurs' Spotlight

*This month's agripreneurs' spotlight beams on two of our colleagues- Angeline Kikata and Yohanna Yakubu. Both young people were trained under the incubation program of IITA Youth Agripreneurs and are now making a difference through agribusiness. Below is a brief story on them.*

### Angeline Kikata



*Angeline Kikata (L) and an Agripreneur from Nigeria*

Angeline Kikata is a student of the University of Nairobi in Kenya. She is into the horticulture enterprise and her journey into the business started in March 2017 during the strike action embarked upon by lecturers at the University of Nairobi where she currently studies applied chemistry.

Rather than sit at home and await the management of the University to call off the strike, Angeline had the opportunity of undergoing an internship program with the Kibwezi Hortipreneur Youth Group in Kibwezi (KHYG) and she embraced it.

Kibwezi Hortipreneur Youth Group (KHYG) is a subsidiary of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs which was established in 2015 and operates from the University of Nairobi Dryland Research Station in Kibwezi, Makueni County.

Angeline was offered a three months internship program by the IYA's technical adviser, Dr Paul Woomer and this according to her made a difference in her perception about agriculture.

"The strike was a blessing in disguise for me as I had experiential hands-on training in greenhouse vegetable production, greenhouse and tent-style structures, types of crops to plant, challenges and how to overcome them. I also learnt

about fish rearing, fish feed formulation, aquaponics-a very impressive technology that I had never heard about before and was very fascinated by it" she stated.

The internship which according to her was tasking initially became fascinating during the sales of the commodities.

After the three months internship program which was shortened after the strike action was called off, Angeline returned to her home in Matunda, Western Kenya, gathered her savings from the local women self-help group and acquired the family land to set

up a tent-style greenhouse where she embarked on a commercial production of tomatoes, cabbage, kales, capsicum and herbs production from which she got 35% of the net returns.

The business according to her has provided employment to 6 additional young people and indirect employment to many more who offer services as casual labor from time to time.

Speaking on her future plans, Angeline stated that she is willing to acquire a loan to expand her operations and provide employment to more people.

"Going forward I plan to use my proceeds from previous cycle to acquire two additional greenhouses to increase tomato production as there is ready market for the tomatoes, I want to establish two fish ponds on the farm 10m x 30m each and practice aquaponics and I am seeking a one-time investment of USD 13,000 to construct, stock, protect, manage and market the fish from the ponds. This will create direct jobs for 4 youths and more than 10 youths indirectly. Proceeds will then be re-invested in the following years. I will follow up on my parents' plans to process a land title deed in my name, finalize registration of KIKATA FARM and provide mentorship and motivation to youths in Africa and beyond.



*Angeline receiving a standing ovation after her presentation at the ENABLE TAAT workshop*

...continue on page 2

## Yohanna Yakubu



Yohanna Yakubu (L), and Molayo Owoeye in 2016 when he started his business

Yohanna Yakubu, a graduate of Zoology was trained under the N2Africa Borno Project funded project by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Before being trained by the project, Yohanna worked in one of the commercial banks in Nigeria but was retrenched due to economic recession. He had the opportunity of participating in the training that was organized for unemployed young graduate under the N2Africa project in Kano in 2016, and decided to venture into groundnut value addition after the training.

From the start-up grant provided to Yohanna, he registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in Nigeria under the business name "Hann

Groundnut Processing Enterprise," and started producing peanut snacks.

The business initially gained popularity among supermarkets and schools, but slowed down due to perceived consumers' economic constraints. To diversify his income streams, Yohanna moved swiftly by seizing the planting season to engage in direct farm activities with the cultivation of maize and cowpea.

Equipped with N2Africa grain legume production technologies, and supported with knap sack sprayer complete with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Yohanna secured his current farm site, estimated at about 7 hectares on lease from the Takwa community, Karu local government area in Nasarawa State, near

the Federal Capital Territory in Abuja.

The farm is currently employing three young men. His basic challenges include, limited operating funds, difficulty in transportation, lack of access to credit, farm mechanization, fertilizer and high cost of casual labour. Notwithstanding, with a little more effort and perseverance, the farm holds great promise as an N2Africa legacy youth enterprise. According to Yohanna "I hope and believe that my expectation will be achieved, after which I will cultivate 30 hectares of land next season by God's grace."



Yohanna (far right) during his training in 2015



The Hann peanut snack

# Business is like riding a bicycle says US Ambassador to Nigeria



*Evelyn Ohanwusi sharing the Agripreneurs' experience with the Ambassador*

The United States of America's Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Whitely Stuart Symington has advised the IITA Youth Agripreneurs to brace up and embrace the opportunities and challenges that await them as they proceed in their chosen agribusiness enterprises.

Mr Symington, who was at IITA on August 28 for an official visit for the second time in 2018, interacted with the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) at the Akin Adesina Agripreneurs building in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Giving an update on the activities of IYA since the last time the Ambassador visited the team in April, the Head of Youth in Agribusiness Office, Evelyn Ohanwusi stated that more agripreneurs through the ENABLE-TAAT project were

being given opportunities to float their independent agribusinesses through funding received under the agribusiness completion component of the project. The agribusiness completion component of the project is committed towards establishing 39 quick win youth led enterprises in year one.

She added that for agripreneurs to qualify for funding under the agribusiness completion component, they were required to submit business plans which they later pitched before a group of agribusiness experts.

The ENABLE-TAAT project is being implemented in 19 African countries with focus on 9 commodity value chains of Rice, Cassava, Maize,

Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato, Sorghum, Wheat, small livestock, aquaculture and High Iron Beans.

Ibukunoluwa Agbotoba while relaying her experience as a co-owner of Afribroiler Limited stated that the business started with a zero interest loan of about \$14,000 from the DG of IITA, but has expanded overtime with additional funding from an angel investor- Dr Eric Koper.

The Ambassador, who was impressed at the progress of the group, commended IITA for continually supporting the youths. He advised them to be objective in their business dealings and ensure that they maintain internationally acceptable standards of operation.

"Whatever you do, set the goals of being the best, something healthy, legal and good for everyone. Find out what the rules are and play by the rules from the beginning because if you cheat on anything to make a certain profit or benefit, you will pay for everything," he stressed.

Benjamin Williams, the Political and Economic Officer of the Consulate in Lagos accompanied the Ambassador on the visit and was also impressed at the youth initiative in IITA.

The team from the US consulate promised to link the agripreneurs with potential investors and mentors who will assist them in expanding the growth of their businesses.



*Agbotoba Ibukun (standing) speaking on their journey into poultry business*



*The Ambassador (middle) in a group photograph with Agripreneurs and delegates from Cote d'ivoire*

# Widen your horizon to penetrate the western world-Dr Akande



*Dr Akande addressing the Agripreneurs during his visit*

The Senior Adviser to the Chancellor and Director of the African Initiative at the Washington University, Dr Benjamin Akande has advised the Agripreneurs trained under the IITA Youth Agripreneurs incubation program to widen their horizon by reaching out to companies in the western world in improving their brands and enhancing their distribution network.

Dr Akande stated this during an interactive session he had with the youths at the Akin Adesina Agripreneur's building on the 27th August in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Speaking further, Dr Akande stated that there are companies in the United States of America that are seeking for partnership in terms of funding, product

branding, promotion and packaging with young entrepreneurs in Africa.

He also implored the youths to seek the assistance of the American Consulate in Nigeria in gaining access to some of these companies especially in getting product certification by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States of America.

Dr Akande emphasized the need for the agripreneurs to maintain quality standards in the production of their commodities.

"I see your generation taking Nigeria from an importing country to an exporting country and IITA has done well by catching them young. Your success will create employment

opportunities to others. However, never compromise the standard of the things you produce. Once you maintain a quality standard, you will be making the difference and you can never tell where such act can take you to," he stated.

Sharing their experience so far in the line of agribusiness, a representative of Frotchery Farms Limited, Hammed Oni said their product- smoked catfish has penetrated some countries around the world. He stated that they were working on their packaging and would explore the FDA certification to ensure that their product gained access to the food shelves in major stores in foreign countries as they have recorded requests from markets in foreign countries.

He added that the team was exploring the acquisition of fish ponds to mitigate the current challenge encountered by the team in accessing raw materials for production as there was an increase in the demand for their products.

Dr Akande was accompanied by his wife, Mrs Bola Akande; Mr Shep Hyken and his wife Sydney Hyken. Mr Steph is a Customer Service Expert, Author and Speaker who assists companies and organizations globally within the private as well as the public sector to build loyal relationships with their customers and employees. Also on the team were Dr. Mojisola Olateru-Olagbegi and her team who represented The Workplace Centre Limited (TWPC). TWPC is a HR / ICT Consulting Services organization which uses technology to drive the ecosystem.

## USAID delegation visit IYA Abuja

A four-member delegation from USAID led by the Chief Economist, Dr. Louise Fox, on 20 August 2018, paid a visit to the IITA Abuja station to understand IYA's engagement in the agri-food systems within the Nigerian context.

Receiving the visitors, Head of IITA Abuja Station, Dr. Gbassey Tarawali reiterated the need for interventions in resolving youth unemployment problems in Nigeria, while highlighting the contribution of IITA through the establishment of the Youth in Agribusiness Program.

An Agripreneur, Mile Sesuur, also gave a presentation to explain the IYA model and

how it had transitioned with members starting their own businesses. Young people who were trained under the IITA Youth Agripreneurs incubation program also displayed their commodities, taking the visitors on the various business enterprises they are engaged in along the agricultural value chains.

The delegates were also conducted round the IYA-Confectionary kitchenette in the Station. Other members of the delegation included: Dr. Charles Iyangbe, Senior Agricultural Economist, Dr. Roseann Carsey and Dr. Mark Visocky from the Bureau of Food Security, Washington DC.



*An Agripreneur interacting with the delegates from USAID at an exhibition organized during the visit*

# Sterling Bank explores partnership with IITA on agribusiness financing

One of the commercial banks in Nigeria, Sterling Bank Plc is exploring areas of partnership with IITA on agribusiness financing loan scheme for agripreneurs who have been trained, mentored and coached by the institute.

The agribusiness financing scheme known as Agribusiness Small and Medium Enterprises Investment Scheme (AGSMEIS) is a voluntary initiative of the Bankers' Committee to support the Federal Government of Nigeria in the promotion of agricultural businesses, and Small and Medium enterprises (SMEs) as vehicles for sustainable economic development and employment generation.

In view of this, a six man team from Sterling Bank visited IITA's headquarters in Ibadan, Nigeria on Thursday, 16th August to conduct a sensitization workshop for the Institution and the IITA Youth Agripreneurs on the loan scheme.

The loan scheme, set at 5% interest rate has the capacity to provide up to 10 million naira to a potential beneficiary with a loan tenor of seven years and a moratorium of up to 18 months for principal and 6 months for interest.

Enlightening participants at the workshop on the scheme, the team lead from the bank, Bukola Awosanya who is also the Group Head, Agriculture and Export Finance stated that the scheme is targeted towards improving access to affordable and sustainable finance by Agri-businesses, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), creating employment opportunities in Nigeria, and boosting the managerial capacity of agri-businesses and MSMEs to grow the enterprises into large corporate organizations in line with the Federal Government's agenda to develop the sector and promote inclusive growth.

She added that business owners across the agricultural value chain covering production, inputs supply, storage, processing, logistics and marketing, MSMEs in manufacturing, mining and petrochemicals as well as MSMEs in the service sector such as information and communication technology (ICT) and the creative industry are eligible to the loan.

They are however expected to go through business development trainings from the Central Bank of Nigeria's recognized Enterprise Development Centres (EDC) and

Enterprise Development Institutes (EDI).

Recognizing the role IITA has played over time in promoting agriculture across the African continent and grooming young entrepreneurs in agriculture, the institute is being identified as a potential Enterprise Development Institutes (EDI).

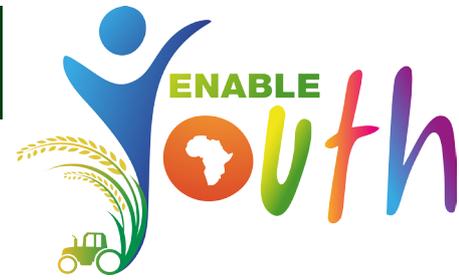
Another representative of the bank, Mr Ebenezer Boluwade while highlighting the criteria in accessing the loan scheme stated that the potential beneficiaries must; develop a business plan for their projects with specific assets to be financed with working capital component and provide; Bank Verification Number (BVN), letter of introduction from any of the following, Clergy, Village Head, District Head, Traditional Ruler, senior civil servant, etc. (for individuals/micro-enterprises only), submit evidence of registration of business name or certificate of incorporation and filing of annual returns (where applicable) in compliance with the provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (1990), Tax Identification Number (TIN) and current Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) where applicable.

EDIs like IITA are to send the list of trained and profiled beneficiaries, loan amount and Sterling Bank account numbers to CBN on their letter head. The letter should be addressed to the Director, Development Finance Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja after which the CBN will review and communicate the outcome to IITA through Sterling Bank.

The workshop had in attendance some key staff of IITA, including, Dr Kenton Dashiell, IITA's Deputy Director General, Partnership for Delivery, Dr Kwesi Atta-Krah, Director of Country Alignment and Site Integration, Dr Chrys Akem, TAAT Coordinator, Engr. Kolawole Peter, IITA's Director of Mechanization, Mr. Fredrick Schreurs, Head of IITA's Business Incubation Platform (BIP), and Ms. Katherine Lopez, Head of IITA's Communication Unit. Also present were representatives from EKIMIKS Ltd and Agripreneurs including trainees from the IYA tri-annual training and Hello Tractor project.



Representative of Sterling Bank, Mr Ebenezer Boluwade speaking on the loan scheme



## Delegates from Cote d'Ivoire visits Nigeria to study the IYA model



*The delegates from Cote d'Ivoire in a group photograph with the DG, Dr Nteranya Sanginga*

As Cote d'Ivoire prepares for the implementation of the ENABLE-Youth program in the country, a 10-man delegation visited IITA for five days to study the IITA Youth Agripreneurs model.

The team who were on a study program between the 27th and 31st of August was led by Karitia Caulibaly, the Deputy Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Youth Employment to IITA in a bid to have a firsthand knowledge of IITA's youth model as Cote d'Ivoire is currently at the ENABLE Youth project preparation stage.

Welcoming the team, the Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga said the ENABLE-Youth Program, which is now a continental program started with an idea which evolved from IITA. He stated that IITA devised a means of creating a career path for unemployed young people in agriculture by training, coaching and mentoring them to embrace agriculture as an income generating option. He added that the successes recorded from the initiative was recognized by other institutions including the African Development Bank (AfDB) and was adopted for replication and expansion through projects like ENABLE-Youth.

During her presentation, the Head of

Youth in Agribusiness Office, Evelyn Ohanwusi corroborated what Dr Sanginga said and she emphasized that the training received had transformed many of them from being job seekers to job creators. She added that the group has recorded the establishment of many independent agribusiness enterprises which is providing jobs for many other youth.

The ENABLE Youth Coordinator in Cote d'Ivoire, Guy-Herve Pillah while giving an update on the ongoing activities in the country said the team had selected the sites that would serve as incubation centres for the beneficiaries of the project. The renovation of the

sites to suit the purposes of the project would commence in earnest.

In his presentation on the "IYA Model", Geulord Mayanga, a youth agripreneur in charge of capacity building in the Democratic Republic of Congo, spoke about two incubation models of youth in agribusiness. He said the first incubation model is targeted at youth with business ideas but who are yet to start generating income. For this category, the incubation period which is for 12 months is in three phases- the pre-incubation, incubation, and post-incubation phases.

The second incubation model is intended for youths who already have existing businesses. The incubation



*The delegates during a visit to one of IYA's spin-offs, Gracevine Foods*

period for this set of people is 6 months and also in three phases- upgrade, start-up, and consolidation phases.

IITA's country representative for DR Congo, Mr Zoumana Bamba speaking on the role of IITA in youth agribusiness incubation said, overtime, the institution had learnt that availability of adequate financial support for businesses was crucial towards propelling the establishment of independent agribusiness enterprises.

The team also visited some IYA business spin-offs in Ibadan and Abuja.

In Abuja, the team was delighted at the progress made by Onyeka Okaro, the CEO of Yeka Farms. Yeka Farms is located in Apo, a suburb in the Federal Capital Territory. Giving a background into the start of the business, Onyeka explained that during his incubation period between 2016 and 2017, he saved money from the stipend earned to establish Yeka farm. To further expand his business, he developed a business plan and applied for funding under the ENABLE-TAAT program which was approved after adequate scrutiny.

"The training I had during my incubation

period was sufficient as it was experiential. It was both on the field and practical in approach. The content was technical and covered business management and ICT. I did not have an agricultural background when I joined the program but today, I run my farm myself. I hope this will inspire one more person to take up farming. I will use the new funds to expand my farm and diversify into fish smoking" he said.

He also revealed that he has placed an order for an automated fish smoking kiln from Nigeria Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research.

The head of the delegation Ms Caulibaly said the experience with the youths inspired her to embrace farming.

## Senegal

# IYA sensitizes Senegal youths in preparation for ENABLE Youth Program

As part of preparation for the implementation of the pilot phase of agribusiness incubation for ENABLE Youth Program in Senegal, 15 selected beneficiaries of the program were at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria for an orientation exercise with IITA Youth Agripreneurs.

The visit was to expose the youths to agribusiness incubation in order for them to have a good understanding of the activities to be implemented in developing the framework of their agribusinesses. The two weeks orientation program took place between 3rd-14th September, 2018.

The first week was facilitated by Mrs Faye, the Senegalese Consultant for IITA, where she spoke about agriculture in Senegal, concepts chains of values and network, agricultural policies and programs, main instruments for facilitating agricultural entrepreneurship, and market information system.

The second week was facilitated by the IITA Youth Agripreneurs, where representatives of IYA presented an overview of IYA's model, and conducted an educational visit to successful agribusiness enterprises in Oyo State among which was Kofo AgroAllied Farm, a cassava processing farm. The educational visit also included some of the businesses established by trained youths under the IYA incubation program.



The Senegalese youths during a visit to Kofo AgroAllied Farm at Iseyin, Oyo State



The CEO of GraceVine Foods, Bose Idowu addressing the youths during their visit to her factory at Ibadan.



## Twenty three more businesses supported by ENABLE TAAT



Facilitators from EKIMIKS Nigeria Limited and the selected businesses

The ENABLE TAAT project is supporting the establishment of twenty three more independent agribusiness enterprises.

The owners of the businesses were given the opportunity to pitch their business ideas before a team of experts from Ekimiks Nigeria Limited at the ENABLE TAAT Implementation workshop held in Nairobi between 20 and 24 August.

The workshop tagged ENABLE TAAT Implementation Workshop: Agripreneur Opportunities and Responsibilities in Central, East and Southern Africa (ET CEASA) was a follow up to the ENABLE TAAT implementation planning meeting held at IITA Headquarters in May.

ENABLE TAAT intends to work in 19 countries over the next few years but with focus on the six countries that have completed their agribusiness incubations. These countries are DR Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Agripreneurs in these countries have been trained, and have prepared their business plans awaiting funding.

ET CEASA was organized to give

the youth in the Central, East and Southern Africa an opportunity to develop a detailed workplan for the implementation of the project in the region and to present their business ideas before a panel of business experts.

The qualified businesses are being supported through ENABLE TAAT under the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance (CBTA) platform. Through this, 34 businesses have so far being financed after meeting the highlighted CBTA support and these requirements includes but not limited to a bankable business plan, business registration, active business account and a detailed work plan while the additional 23 that were approved during ET CEASA will be supported with funds before the end of the year.

Some of the new businesses to be supported cut across the value chains of maize, livestock, soybean, cassava, rice, fish, horticulture, online marketing platform etc.

Other Agripreneur groups also developed work plans to fulfill specific tasks that provide opportunities to

other youths. The work plan is drafted around advocacy campaigns, youth registration for expanded IYA services, outreach campaigns that promotes the TAAT value chains and develop additional agribusiness incubations that raises the compact's competency across all of the TAAT value chains.

Addressing the participants at the workshop, the Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga advised the youth to be courageous and dedicate themselves to their businesses. He added that the purpose of IYA was not only to build great business men in the agriculture sector but also next generation of leaders who understand what it takes to create jobs, manage, and address the basic needs of people.

The CEO of Ekimiks Nigeria Limited, Mr Tope Miriki advised the young people not to look at the challenges involved in climbing the ladder to success in business but rather maintain a high level of integrity in operating their businesses. He stated that IITA had given a rare opportunity to fly and encouraged them to support other youths by creating jobs.

The ET CEASA took a different dimension through the demonstration and promotion of technologies. The demonstration which is in partnership with Nairobi-based technology providers featured small scale mechanization, drip irrigation and Fall Army Worm Rapid Response.

The essence of the technology demonstration was not only to portray that mechanization is labor efficient and important to modernized African agriculture but to also encourage the young people to build businesses around the sales and services of these equipment.

The technology demonstrations were conducted in partnership with Ikonik Farm Machinery, Amiran Kenya Limited and HortiCenter in Kenya.

# Picture gallery of activities during ET-CEASA



The DG, Dr Nteranya Sanginga addressing the participants



A group photograph of all participants



A display of some of the mechanized tools



A facilitators from EKIMIKS Nigeria Limited, Dr Kelikume lecturing participants of the workshop



An Agripreneur from Tanzania pitching her business plan to the panel of judges



A stage display on the fight against Fall ArmyWorm



The Judges brainstorming on the business plans

# Youth begin agribusiness activities through CBTA platform

Following the disbursement of start-up funds for trained Agripreneurs through the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance (CBTA) platform of ENABLE-TAAT, many of the youths have commenced full operation of their businesses in different locations across Nigeria, DR Congo, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The start-up fund was disbursed to the first sets of beneficiaries of the project in July after the screening and approval of their business plans. Part of the conditions for the selection and disbursement of fund is a registered business name and account.

The first set of beneficiaries, totaling about 34 indicated interest in establishing independent agribusiness enterprises along the value chains of TAAT commodities using modern technologies for the promotion of the commodities.

Below is a brief on the businesses.

Business Name	Business Description	Type of Business	Owners	Location
Adeife Cuisine	Food Vendor	Sole Proprietorship	Ifedolapo Adedeji	Ibadan, Nigeria
Agroved Mechanized Farm	Poultry Production	Partnership	David Adaeze, Nneji Esther & Victoria Ok-pachu	Abuja, Nigeria
Alpha Quality	Rice Production	Sole Proprietorship	Femi Oyebamiji	Ibadan, Nigeria
Amavite Limited	Plantain Flour and Smoke Fish	Sole Proprietorship	Nike Adigun	Ibadan, Nigeria
DASEMSA Integrated Ventures	Grain Aggregation	Partnership	Eleshili Uche, Chika Monday & Ademue Eteh	Abuja Nigeria
Ng'wilago Youth Transcend	Rabbit Production	Sole proprietorship	Edmond Ng'walago	Tanzania
PACKI Livestock	Poultry Production	Cooperative	Chritelle Kindja, Prince Amani, Bukavu Youth Agripreneurs	DR Congo
FAPS enterprises	Bakery	Partnership	Funmi Oyesiji and Peter komolafe	Ibadan, Nigeria
Frotchery Farms Limited	Catfish Processing	Partnership	Hammed Oni, Ngozi Chituru & Babatunde Ismail	Ibadan, Nigeria
F-step Enterprises	Cassava Production	Sole Proprietorship	Seun Ogidan	Ago-Owu, Nigeria
Gracevine Foods	Cowpea, plantain and yam production and processing	Sole Proprietorship	Bose Idowu	Mokwa/Ibadan, Nigeria
Green Pasture International	Ram Fattening	Partnership	Bankole Akinyele & Veronica Magaji	Kano, Nigeria
Convergence Murade	Sorghum, Maize seed and grain production	Partnership	Muritala Gbadamosi & Toyin Adewale	Kano, Nigeria
Hamuch Mechanization	Mechanization services	Partnership	Halimat Hassan & Chianu Andrew	Ibadan, Nigeria
Imo Fish Production	Fish Production	Partnership	Mbuk Uduak, Innocent Ezugwu & Faith Ohae-gbulem	Imo, Nigeria
Imo greenhouse tent	Horticulture services	Sole proprietorship	Azeez Ibrahim	Imo, Nigeria
Imo Horticulture	Horticulture production	Partnership	Dolapo Omokanjuola, Chinwe Nwabuogu & Grace Onwusonye	Imo, Nigeria
Imo Poultry Production	Poultry Production	Partnership	Doyin Ojoniyi, Mercy Igwe & Ozioma Oputa	Imo, Nigeria
Kamkalange Food Industries	Orange Flesh Potato Processing	Sole proprietorship	Tabitha Muli	Kibwezi, Kenya

Maxi-T Nectar	Plantain chips production	Sole proprietorship	Temitope Adeniyi	Ibadan, Nigeria
PALASPA Agro Resources Enterprises	Rice Seed Production	Partnership	Felicia Okotie, Samuel Nze Magaji & Nathaniel M. Malgwi	Abuja, Nigeria
ZAM Silver Fish Enterprise	Fish production and processing	Sole proprietorship	Aduralere Oluwakeyede	Abuja, Nigeria
Sorghi Enterprises	Sorghum Production	Partnership	Faith Omoruan, David Samora, Hamza, Alexander & Ruffus Nggadda	Abuja, Nigeria
TODAM Farm Quality	Cowpea, maize seed and grain Production	Sole Proprietorship	Tolulope Omole	Mokwa, Nigeria
TAC Enterprise	Maize and Cowpea cultivation	Sole Proprietorship	Mustapha Quadri	Kaduna, Nigeria
TODAA Farms	Cassava Production	Sole Proprietorship	Obinna Atu	Rivers, Nigeria
Top Notch Poultry	Poultry Production	Partnership	Yetunde Oginni & Ibukun Agbotoba	Ibadan, Nigeria
YEKA Agribusiness and Development Enterprise	Fish Production and Processing	Sole Proprietorship	Onyeka Okaro	Abuja, Nigeria
Youth Agri-Hub vegetable production	Vegetable production	Sole Proprietorship	Beckie Nakabugo	Kampala, Uganda



The DG, Dr Sanginga screening the business plans prior to their submission to experts

# Agripreneurs support fight against Fall Army Worm

Fall Army Worm (FAW) (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) has suddenly become a major threat to food security in Africa. This highly destructive pest is native to Tropical America and was first detected in Africa in January 2016 in Nigeria.

It has since spread to 38 countries across Africa and is attacking a wide host of over 80 plants with preference for cereal crops. It is extremely destructive to maize with losses estimated at 20.6 million tons per year worth \$6.2 billion. The Fall Army Worm Compact is led by IITA and assumes a strong Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach that includes scouting and surveillance, biological control agents, host plant resistance, low-cost agronomic practices, and habitat management strategies. But at the same time, farmers facing this invasion require immediate and direct control options. This provides the rationale for a youth-led FAW Rapid Response.

Although the Agripreneur team in Kenya has commenced service provision to farmers and assisting in the control of the Fall Army Worm outbreak, the services is being extended by Agripreneurs to other locations- Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Tagged the Fall Army Worm Rapid Response, the Kenya Agripreneurs who pioneered the initiative under the TAAT Kenya Quick Win on Fall Army Worm devised a toolkit consisting of a customized cargo tricycle (tuk-tuk), power sprayers, safety equipment, commercially recommended pesticides, farmer information materials and communication tools.

A day-training course on FAW Rapid Response that contained seven modules covering; Understanding the Fall Army Worm invasion, control options and access to rapid response equipment and supplies, Agripreneur

youths as rapid responders within local communities. An agro-dealer networks was developed at the end of the training.

CIMMYT provided the youths with copies of a recently published book on FAW management and a pilot course was recently conducted for 40 participants drawn from agro-dealers, farmer associations, youth groups, and extension providers. The course itself is considered a success because its participants returned to their various locations and immediately enlisted 220 farmers interested in contracting FAW Rapid Response Services. The course has proven to not only prepare operators for efficient and safe FAW control, but also galvanize local commitment and investment in this toolkit.

An interesting video on Agripreneurs Fall Army Worm Rapid Response is accessible via: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mslz7A6d3Hc&feature=share>

**Are you a victim of the Fall Army Worm invasion?**

**Announcing the**

## Fall Army Worm Rapid Response



Let our teams of trained army worm control operators manage this threat to your maize cropland

- Timely and affordable: Mobile service dispatched to your farm from our local Youth Agripreneur shop
- Application using power sprayers and recommended pesticides
- Operations comply with health and environmental safety guidelines
- Treat cropland for only KES 1500 per acre plus modest transport costs
- Special 15% discount for treatment of 3 acres of more: **Tell your neighbors!**



For more information contact Elizabeth at email [Mwikali82@yahoo.com](mailto:Mwikali82@yahoo.com) or make inquiries at the KHYG Town Depot



A youth who is fully kitted to fight Fall Army Worm



# Updates on ENABLE-TAAT from project locations

## Imo

Maintaining its driving force towards the implementation of the ENABLE-TAAT compact in the South-Eastern part of Nigeria, the Agripreneurs in Imo State have established their fields to provide improved varieties of commodities under the food basket component.

The team has planted over 1 hectare of Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP). The youth contacted a specialist at the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture

Umudike to source for vines for OFSP. They were able to secure and plant over 358 bundles of vines of which have since become a cause of attraction to farmers who visit the farm. The team intends to sell the tubers and multiply the vines for the next planting season.

The team has also cultivated over 1.2 hectares of pro-vitamin A cassava. It is no news that cassava is a major staple food in Nigeria, hence, these youths intend to

generate revenue through the sales of cassava roots and stems. They are also ready and excited to sensitize people on the benefits of pro-vitamin A cassava over the other common varieties.

To strengthen the poultry business of the team and increase productivity, the Imo team stocked over 2,200-day old chicks in the poultry farm. Currently, the purchased chicks have grown into the pullet stage.

## Onne

At Onne in Rivers State, a sensitization program was organized for farmers and youth in the locality. The program focused on building the capacity of interested youths on Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFS) and raising awareness about OFSP as an important crop for income generation for farmers as well as a good diet for combating Vitamin-A deficiency among children, women of reproductive age and the vulnerable in society.

The sensitization program which took place on the 7th of September is coming based on the establishment of the OFSP by the IYA team in Onne for the promotion of bio-fortified commodities in the area.

Addressing the 35 youths present at the program, a representative of International Potato Center (CIP) Mr Gift Buduzhi Oguzor highlighted the health benefits of OFSP and encouraged

participants to venture into either the vine multiplication or root production.

Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) is one of the nine TAAT Value Chains in which ENABLE-TAAT has been positioned to promote its agricultural technology through the food basket outreach.

The team in Onne also established fields for bio-fortified maize and cassava.

## Uganda

The team in Uganda has gathered some youths groups to train them under the incubation component of ENABLE-TAAT.

The youth who were selected from various farmers' group are being trained on best bet agronomic practices on some TAAT commodity value chains such as fortified varieties of bush and climbing beans, and Orange Flesh Sweet Potato.

The 12 youths selected will be taken through business development and marketing of the commodities after which they will be given an opportunity to undergo internship program with the team.

## Tanzania

Participating at the National Farmers Day exhibition (Nanenane) from 1st to 8th of August, the IYA team in Tanzania used the opportunity to sensitize the participants and youths present on the ENABLE-TAAT program.

The National Farmers Day exhibition (Nanenane) was held at Nyakabindi Grounds in Simiyu Region (Northern East of Tanzania).

Joining other stakeholders in the agriculture sector to display their products, and technologies along the value chain, IYA members in Tanzania explained the concept of

youth in agribusiness and the model used by IITA in engaging youth in agribusiness. IYA representative, Edwin Ndibalema talked about ENABLE-TAAT, its objectives and how the community will benefit from the project.

This caught the attention of the media who conducted interviews and indicated interest in working with the youth to promote the activities under the project.

## Ibadan

IYA is giving more youths the opportunity to venture into agribusiness by providing trainings along the value chains of agricultural commodities.

The training organized under the ENABLE-TAAT platform focused on cassava production and commercialization for unemployed young graduates who are willing to venture into the production of the commodities for selected 21 youths.

The capacity development unit of IITA Youth Agripreneurs organized three days training at the IITA headquarters in Ibadan from 19th to 21st of September.

The training which was conducted in the classroom and on-field covered cassava root production and field management practices, the basics of cassava stems multiplication, profitability analysis of cassava stem multiplication production and commercialization,

profitability analysis of cassava root production and commercialization.

The training also covered an introduction to Business Plan Development and presentation.

# IYA and World Fish conduct assessment visit in Benin



*Some of the cage culture facilities discovered during the assessment exercise*

In a bid to implement the aquaculture compact of TAAT in the Republic of Benin, representatives of WorldFish and IITA Youth Agripreneurs visited the country between 28th and 29th of August to identify strategies of upscaling the fish farming activities in Republic of Benin and conducting an assessment exercise on aquaculture facilities in the country.

The exercise conducted with the support of Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Benin (INRAB) was to map out priority technologies to be demonstrated and business opportunities for fish value chain actors at each demonstration center, to assess the capacity of identified demonstration center with respect to its infrastructure and to recommend needed activities for upgrading of the pilot demonstration/

training center for aquaculture activities for youths and farmers.

While carrying out the exercise, it was discovered that fish breeders in Benin needs to be supported with improved tilapia and catfish brood stock strain to increase the current fish production in the country. The team also identified the need for training and support in the formulation of low cost fish feed to reduce the cost of production, means of improving on the current method of fish processing through the introduction of smoking kiln techniques to reduce post-harvest losses, train more youths to engage in aquaculture production, and to strengthen the capacity of fish breeders and research institute to improve fish strain while they partner with the private sector in the multiplication of fish strain.

The team identified five potential training centres for aquaculture and they are Pisciculture, Foundation Tonon Cossi Gilbert (CRIAB), Ferme Johan Esteve, St. Elizabeth Farm, and INRAB all located in Cotonou.

The aquaculture compact led by WorldFish in partnership with ENABLE-TAAT compact implemented by IITA Youth Agripreneurs will support fish breeders with improved tilapia and catfish brood stock strain to increase the current fish production in Republic of Benin, train and support farmers on formulation of low cost fish feed to reduce cost of production, train the farmers and youth on value addition to address post-harvest losses etc.



*The cross section of a concrete pond at one of the institutes visited*



*A group photograph of the team who conducted the assessment exercise.*

# IITA's Dam assessed for cage culture technology



*The assessment exercise at IITA*

The TAAT aquaculture compact in September conducted an assessment exercise on the reservoir at IITA for the construction of cages to implement the Tilapia Cage Culture technology being proposed by the compact.

The assessment exercise was carried out in September by Ajibola Olaniyi-TAAT Aquaculture Technology Transfer

Officer, Mr John Abeng, IITA's Senior Farm Superintendent, Molayo Owoeye, ENABLE-TAAT Head of Capacity Building, and led by Mr Remi Ahmed, President of Tilapia Developer Association of Nigeria (TADAN) and CEO of Choice Fisheries . The assessment aimed at strategizing ways of constructing a Tilapia cage culture technique, which will serve as aquaculture technology

demonstration and training center for youth and fish farmers in Nigeria.

After a thorough check of the reservoirs located within IITA, Mr Ahmed stated that the reservoir located at the institute's Golf course meets the size requirement needed to carry out the tilapia cage culture technique. He added that necessary measures will be taken in checking the properties of the water for the fishes.

The methodology of the training will see the aquaculture compact handling the technical aspect of the training of the selected youth and farmers through the ENABLE-TAAT Compact. The Aquaculture Compact will provide the technologies and carry out the demonstration of the technologies, while The ENABLE-TAAT compact will empower the youths to set up aquaculture business initiatives.



*The team who conducted the exercise*

## Gabon impressed with IYA model



*The Prime Minister (4th from right) with some of his cabinet members and delegates from IITA*

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Gabon, H.E. Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet is exploring partnership with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in the areas of youth engagement in agriculture.

The Prime Minister, who met with some delegates from IITA, led by the Director General, Dr Nteranya Sanginga on Saturday, September 8 in Kigali, highlighted some of the challenges facing the agriculture sector in the country and wanted IITA to use its expertise in assisting the country to address some of the challenges.

He pointed out that young people in Gabon have shown little interest in the agricultural sector, hence the sector is

dominated by ageing men and women who operate at a minimum scale. This according to him is as a result of young people's mentality of not being able to make a livelihood in agriculture. He added that the country has come to realize the need to act fast in ensuring that the mentality of the youths changed in order for them to secure the agriculture sector.

"We need to convince young people that they can make a livelihood outside of administrative/government jobs but because they are impatient and agriculture requires a lot of patience, they run away from it. It is important to engage the youth and encourage them to return to the land, because that is the foundation of development", he stated.

Speaking on how to engage youths in agriculture, Dr Sanginga explained the IITA Youth in Agribusiness model. He said the Institute started with a pilot group of about 30 young people and changed their orientation about agriculture. He said although this took some time through the incubation program, many of them have found a pathway in agriculture and now own and operate private agribusiness enterprises.

He added that the program which started with a small group in Nigeria is being replicated across Africa.

Dr. Sanginga also gave an overview of the research of IITA. He discussed the ongoing work that IITA is currently doing in Togo and expressed the need to get Gabon involved which would include their financial support.

The Head of the TAAT Clearing House, Dr. Mpoko Bokanga also gave an overview of the TAAT program.

The Gabon Minister of Agriculture, Biendi Maganga-Moussavou, who was also part of the meeting was very excited about partnering with IITA/TAAT, especially regarding the youth program. He emphasized the need for providing technical training for the youth agribusiness programs.

## MasterCard Foundation receives IITA delegation in Kigali

The Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga led a delegation from IITA to the Rwanda office of the MasterCard Foundation on 7th September to explore areas of partnership with the Foundation.

While receiving the IITA team at their office in Kigali, the country representative, Mr Alamayehu Konde expressed delight at the extent of work done by IITA with youths in Africa. He noted that the Foundation targets to reach out to 18

million youths by 2030 and is willing to partner with African based organizations in achieving the target. He added that the Foundation intends to work with the countries to actually define the needs within the countries leveraging on challenges and available opportunities.

Responding on behalf of IITA, the Director General, Dr Nteranya Sanginga expressed his delight over the Foundation's work and the approach of working with

African based organizations which is evident in the opening of the first African office in Kigali. He reiterated the Institute's commitment to working with the Foundation in the agrifood/agribusiness sector by creating opportunities for young people.

The MasterCard Foundation Office in Kigali, Rwanda is the first operational office opened in Africa.