

IITA

Transforming African Agriculture



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Inauguration and Naming the IITA Research Station, "The President Olusegun Obasanjo, Research Campus" in Kalambo Bukavu

By

His Excellency Felix Tshisekedi
President of the Democratic Republic of Congo

8 October 2019



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Summary

The proposed date for the official inauguration of the IITA agricultural station in Kalambo, Bukavu in honour of H.E. O. O. Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is the 8th of October 2019. His Excellency F. Tshisekedi, the President of Republic of DR Congo (DRC) has accepted to officiate the event. He will be assisted by the H.E J. Kabila former President of DRC and Dr A. A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) with other Heads of States and dignitaries from DR Congo and the Great Lakes Region. Dr N. Sanginga, Director General of IITA, will lead the institute alongside its Senior Management team and the Board of Trustees in this important inaugural event.

This concept note describes the background to the construction of the Kalambo station, the concept of the event, and draft program.



HE Olusegun Obasanjo



HE F. Tshisekedi



HE J. Kabila



DG N. Sanginga



Prst. A.A. Adesina

The expected outcomes from this inauguration ceremony are:

- IITA's visibility in DR Congo and the region increased towards governments, donors, and public and private partners.
- IITA's leadership in research for development re-affirmed for the region and continent.
- Confidence into IITA by the donor community enhanced.

Background

The IITA Board of Trustees decided to elevate the IITA station in DR Congo that operated in a project mode for many years to become the focal point of the institute's regional hub for natural resource management in the Great Lakes in 2011. This region experiences specific agricultural problems, including the sustainability of its natural management resources, which require a critical mass of scientists to address. Soil nutrient mining remains the main source of nutrients for crops in DR Congo and other countries in the Great Lakes Region, resulting in degraded soils and advanced erosion.

Biotic constraints include Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) that recently developed into a major biological threat causing yield reductions of up to 100% with the disease expanding westward. The Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) disease, first detected in Ethiopia, is devastating banana production in the Great Lakes region.

Efforts to address the above crop diseases need to be coupled to improved agronomic practices and post-harvest to develop competitive value chains.

The other constraints being tackled by all the government in DRC is that of unemployment of youth and women and dependency on food import to feed the growing population in DR Congo and neighboring countries. IITA is called upon to help find solutions to some of these problems.

IITA in DRC: A history of success against major challenges

IITA started its operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since 1974, when the government invited the Institute to implement the National Cassava Programme (Programme National Manioc - PRONAM) to tackle all cassava problems mainly cassava bacterial blight through research for development. IITA carries out activities in close collaboration with the



IITA Research Campus in HQ, Ibadan Nigeria.

“Institut National pour l’Etude et la Recherche Agronomiques (INERA)” in the development of healthy, nutritious and profitable technologies. Also, IITA collaborates with the National Extension Service called “Service National de Vulgarisation (SNV)” for dissemination of technologies and the National Seed Service called “Service National de Semences (SENASA)” for control and certification of seed.

With the success of PRONAM, the DRC government engaged IITA in more collaborative research from 1983 on seasonal food crops comprising; grain legumes (cowpea, groundnuts and soybean) and maize, as well as natural resources management programme and building capacities of national research staff.

IITA has supported formal and informal training activities as part of our strategy to improve food security and reduce poverty in DRC. In addition to the graduate training several short-term specialized trainings have been organized for many stakeholders which include INERA, SNV, SENASA and local NGO’s. More than 140 Congolese INERA staff have benefited from Graduate Research Fellowship Program and non-degree training programs.

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Ongoing research activities/projects in DRC

1 Between 2006 and today

IITA is leading a consortium of international agricultural centers, national research and academic institutions and development organizations, the Consortium for Improving Agriculture-based Livelihoods in Central Africa (CIALCA); Phase 4: 2017 to 2022, supported by the Belgian Development Cooperation.

2 Project to combat Cassava brown streak disease in DRC (CBSD-RDC), 2016–2020.

Supported by USAID.

3 Improving aquaculture in DR Congo, 2017–2019.

Supported by IFAD.

4 Tuendele Pamoja II in collaboration with Food for the Hungry (FH) in South-Kivu and Tanganyika, 2017–2020.

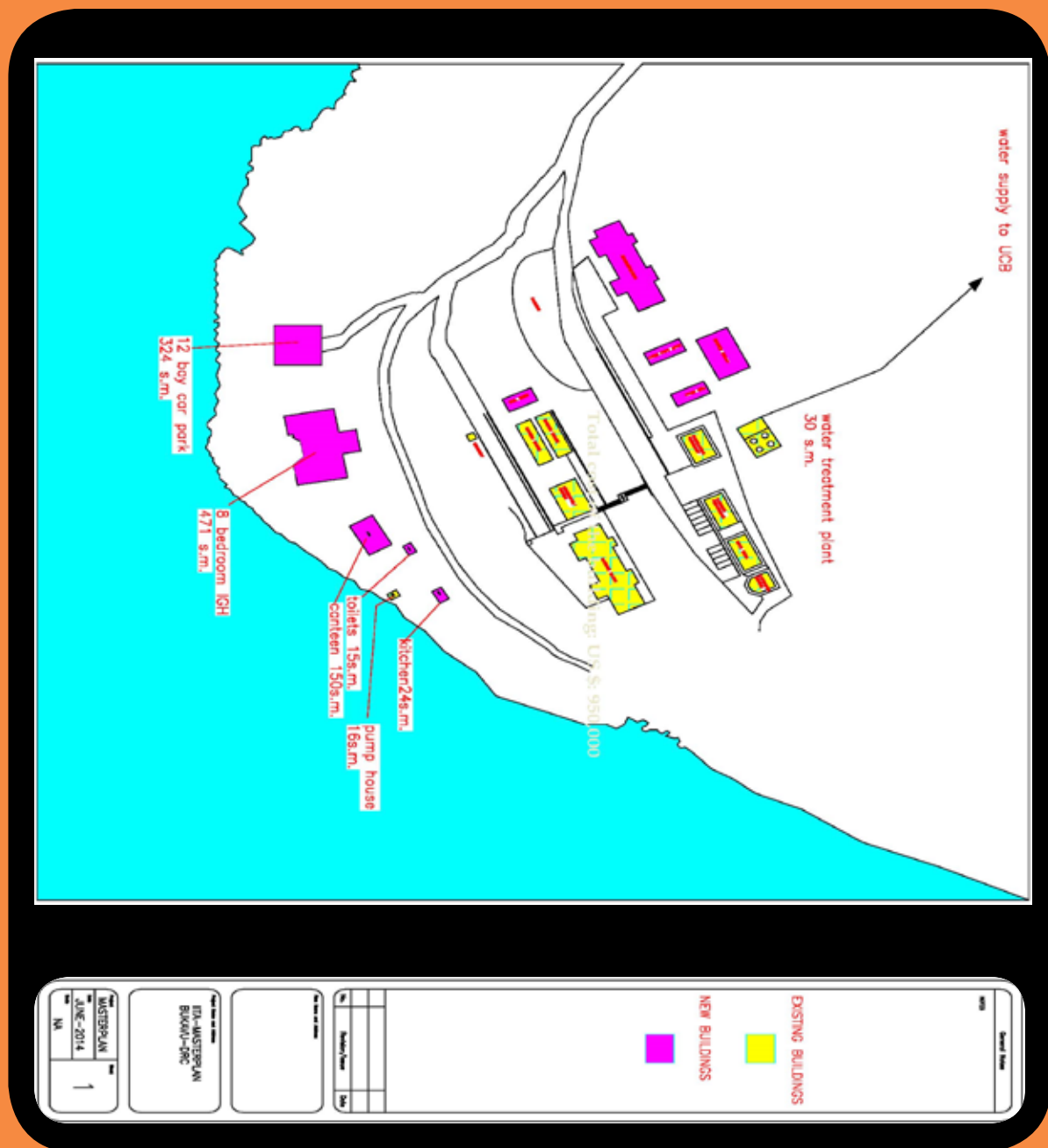
Supported by USAID.

5 Projet Intégré de Croissance Agricole dans la région des Grands Lacs (PICAGL), 2019–2021

Supported by the World Bank through the Government of DR Congo.

Building the IITA Kalambo Station

The first stone of the Kalambo campus was laid by Dr N. Sanginga on the new campus of the Catholic University of Bukavu in 2008 as the Headquarters of a company, referred to as CIALCA Development International, aiming at creating capacity building for youth in agribusiness. The initial infrastructure was launched by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture representing President Kabila on 5 June 2014. Since then IITA has developed it as the main International Agricultural Research Center in DR Congo and in the Great Lakes.



Master Plan of the IITA Kalambo Station.

It now features a top-class tissue culture lab for the vegetative multiplication of cassava, banana, cocoa, yam, and potato, modelled after the lab at the IITA Headquarters in Nigeria, launched during the IITA's 50th anniversary celebrations on 24 July 2017 by Former Presidents Gowon and Obasanjo of Nigeria and Dr Adesina, President of the African Development Bank.

IITA Kalambo employs over 100 people and is thus the third largest employer in Bukavu after Pharmakina and Bralima. The station offers all the modern equipment needed for impact-focused agricultural R&D, including a soil and plant analytical laboratory, a soil microbiology unit, and a molecular lab, and serving the neighboring countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo and Uganda. The Kalambo Agricultural



DG Sanginga starting building by opening the forested hill at UCB in 2008.

Production and Processing Unit serves to develop and optimize commercially viable enterprises targeting young people and women. In addition to being open to IITA scientists and partners from CGIAR and National Agricultural Research Institutes, including INERA and UCB, the facilities are accessible to professors, scientists, and students from national and international universities.

The science building will be dedicated to IITA and its partners' mission of fighting hunger and poverty in the continent and will contribute towards boosting agricultural productivity in DR Congo and the region. It is also a symbol of our dedication and commitment to building the research and development capacity in DR Congo and the Great Lakes.



Construction of the first Building in 2009.



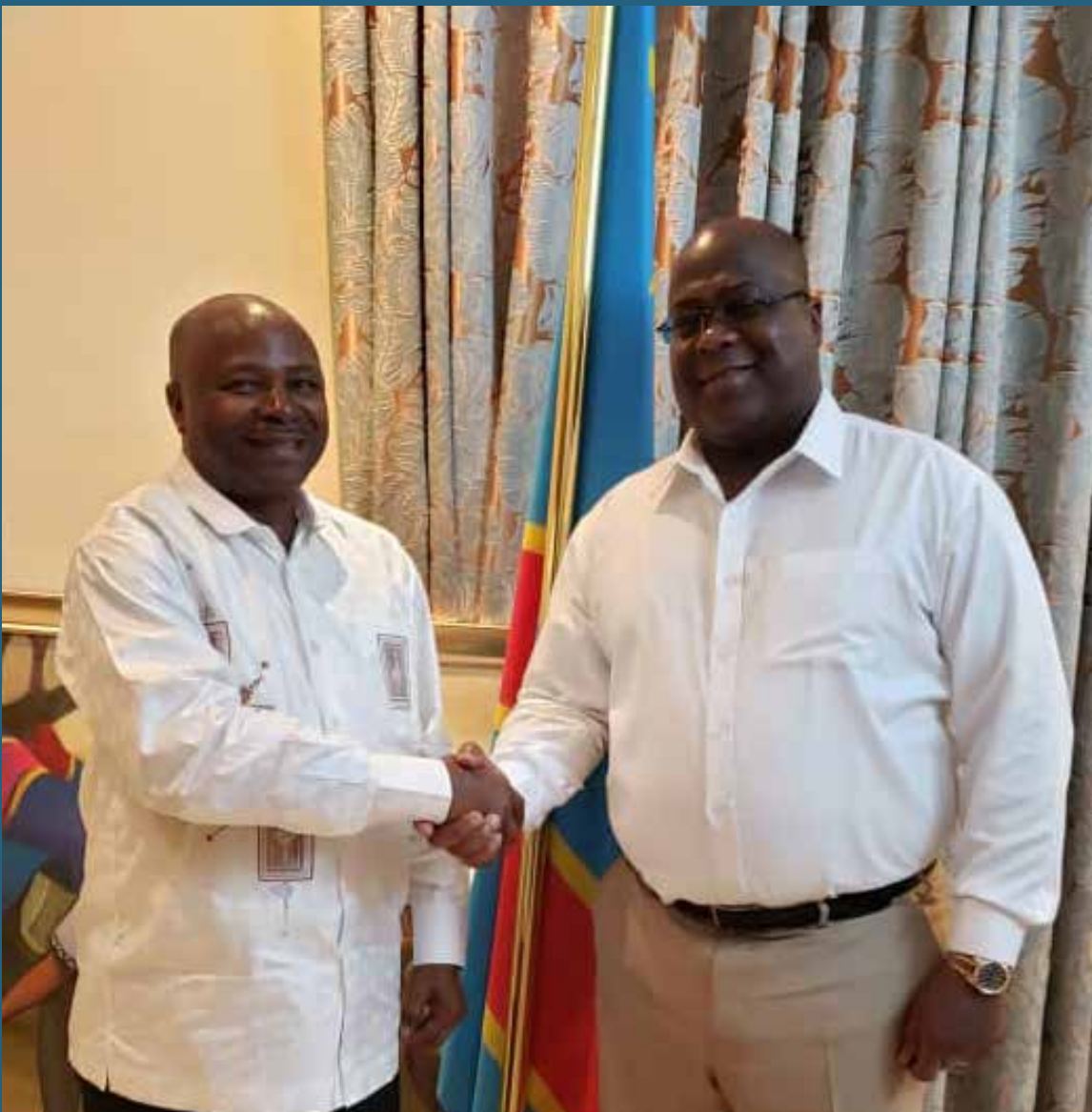
Construction continues in 2019 with building the second Tissue Culture building after the one in Ibadan in 2018.



Tissue culture laboratory, Ibadan-Nigeria.

Naming the IITA newly built in Kalambo Bukavu, DRC "The President Olusegun Obasanjo IITA Research Campus"

With the political change that has recently happened in DR Congo, H.E. President Tshisekedi has indicated that he will prioritize agriculture by 'funding DR Congo's topsoil with resources harvested from its subsoil (mineral resources)'. Agriculture will be transformed from a social enterprise to a business-oriented sector that creates employment, especially for the youth and women. This strategy was reinforced by Drs Adesina and Sanginga during a courtesy visit to H. E President Tshisekedi in July 2019.



DG Sanginga with HE President Tshisekedi, DR Congo.

President O. O. Obasanjo has made lasting contribution to agricultural research not only in Nigeria but also in Africa. He is spearheading the Zero Hunger Initiative that has strong relevance to DR Congo. *Because of his contribution, the IITA Board of Trustees has decided to name our research Station in Kalambo, Bukavu after him "The President Olusegun Obasanjo IITA Kalambo Research Campus".*

In 2014, President Obasanjo had agreed to launch the IITA research station in Kalambo but due to air traffic difficulties this did not happen. Naming this campus after him will honour the sacrifices he endured since 1961 when as a young Soldier he was part of the UN troops that was mandated to make peace in DR Congo after independence and all his efforts to mediate peace in 2008 when the country was invaded by the rebels led by Nkunda in the east of the country. Of course, the many contributions he has made for IITA also justify this honour.



DG Sanginga's first visit to President O. Obasanjo in 2012 and convince him to be the IITA Ambassador.

Program of the inaugural event

Scientific organization of the inaugural ceremony

The scientific component will also consist of two parts. In the morning, prior to speeches and the cutting of ribbon by the President of DR Congo, there will be demonstrations and exhibitions corresponding to the technical themes described below. Each technical theme will have a booth to demonstrate the problems and their solutions generated from research for development. In the afternoon, after a buffet lunch, there will be a session with presentations to the donors and other visitors who are interested to know more about IITA work.

The following themes and team leaders were identified:

- Cassava value chain (**Dr Leon Nabahunga** as team leader).
- Banana (**Dr Swennen** as team leader).
- Soils and Agronomy (**Dr P, Pypers** showing the soils digital and its use in DRC).
- Business Incubation platform (**Frederick** about Aflasafe, Goseed and NoduMax).
- Agripreneurs (**Noel Mulingaya and Tola**).
- Start Them Early Project (STEP) (**Prince Bobo** and Yvette).
- Technology for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) (**Bokanga**).

Presidential tours of the facilities

The Presidential tour will start at the entrance of the station by opening the President Obasanjo campus by the Congolese President and the cutting of the ribbon. A welcome speech will be delivered by the DG Sanginga.

The tour will then start by visiting 1. The fish hatchery; 2. Soils Lab; 3. Plant health Lab; 4. Green House; 5. Aflasafe lab and 6. SAH lab in the new building; 7. Machine fabrication unit; 8. Cassava processing; 9. Soybean processing and 10. Selling point followed by the different groups of Agripreneurs and partnersexposing their products. The timing at each stop must be respected. The draft program is in Annex 1.

Speeches in the newly built Tissue Culture Laboratory

The national anthem will be played followed by IITA videos. There will be a Master of Ceremony selected in consultation with the DRC presidency.

Speeches will be delivered by:

- The Director of the Central Africa hub; **Dr B Vanlauwe** focusing on the research output/impact and how this serves the whole Great Lakes region.
- The Head of TAAT Clearinghouse, **Dr M Bokanga** focusing on the role of TAAT to promote at scale proven technologies.
- The IITA Chairman of the Board of Trustees **Pres. Namanga** describing the role and future of IITA in Africa.
- The Archbishop **Monseigneur Maroya** speaking about the UCB and relationship IITA.
- **The Governor** of Sud Kivu about how IITA is helping with agricultural development through the PICA-GL project.
- **President A.A. Adesina** describing Obasanjo as the champion of agriculture.
- Acceptance speech by **President Obasanjo**
- Statements by the Heads of State present at the ceremonies including former President Kabila of DRC.
- The Chief of staff **Honorable V. Kamerhe** who will give the vision of agricultural development in DRC before introducing **the DRC President**.
- Keynote address and declaration of opening the station by the HE **President Tshisekedi**.

Conclusion

The naming of the IITA Kalambo Station after President O. Obasanjo is historic and will spearhead the development of agricultural research and business while building bridges between the people of DRC and Nigeria.

Annex 1: Tentative program for the inauguration of the New Science Building

S/N	Activities	Liaison
1	Arrival of political, diplomatic, and scientific personalities and the Governor of South Kivu	IITA Board Chair, IITA DG, IITA Director CAH Hub, Minister of Agriculture, Protocol DRC
2.	Arrival of Honorary Guests and Presidents Obasanjo, Adesina BAD, Governor Oyo State, Nigeria and Governors North Kivu and Tanganyika	Governor of South Kivu, IITA Board Chair, IITA DG
3	Arrival of the Heads of State from the Great Lakes	Governor of South Kivu, IITA Board Chair, IITA DG
4.	Arrival of the Head of State of the DRC	Head of the Cabinet of the DRC, Governor of South Kivu, IITA Board Chair, IITA DG
4.	Cut the ribbon and Opening of the IITA Research Station Campus Obasanjo de Kalambo	Ceremony by the President of the DRC preceded by a word on the station by DG Sanginga
5.	IITA Kalambo Staff Campus Tour	IITA Kalambo staff
5.	Welcome speeches and speeches to the VVIP and the Head of State	VVIP and Heads of State
6.	Inaugural speech by the President of the DRC	Honored guests
7.	Private conversation	Head of State with VVIP
8.	Lunch and boat tour around Lake Kivu	Special invitation
9.	Departure	Departure of the guests of honor and Heads of State
10.	Visit of the science building by groups of other participants followed by a buffet lunch	Participants
11.	Workshop on TAAT and the role of IATI.	Panel of Speakers
12.	End of the ceremony and departure of the participants	All

