

Students from SUA, Tanzania share on their field practicals at IITA-EA Hub



Group photo of SUA Students

“The knowledge I have gained will stay with me for years. I am very grateful for being given the opportunity to do my field practical here,” said Amina Kibasa, doing a BSc in Biotechnology and Laboratory Science at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro, Tanzania.

Amina is among 11 undergraduate students who recently concluded a five-week field practical at the IITA Eastern Africa hub. Nine of them were from SUA and two from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and were attached to the Plant Pathology and Food Science laboratories at the hub, respectively.

Sharing her experience on working in the Pathology Lab under the supervision of IITA researchers, she said, “We are studying Instrumentation at the University, but we don’t have enough instruments to practice what we learn theoretically. But IITA gave me the opportunity to put the knowledge into practice. One of the things I learned was biocontrol

which means, using a biological agent to control aflatoxin. This experience has added value to my studies.”

Mbalamwezi Ismail, also a BSc student in Biotechnology and Laboratory Science, appreciated the time spent at the Pathology Lab. “We learned about the Aflasafe technology, its production and how it works. We also had enough time to conduct analyses.



Amina in the laboratory

I am grateful I did my field practical here,” he said.

Highlighting her field practical experience at IITA, Olympia Urio, a BSc student in Food Science and Technology at UDSM said, “At the University we do fewer analyses and many observations. But here we have done several analyses, something which has improved our knowledge.”

On her side, Miriam Wanda a BSc student in Food Science and Technology at SUA, noted that apart from many experiments and analyses she made in the Food Quality lab, she has also learned other skills, which she believes will help her in her future endeavors.

“Communication is among the skills we learned. We saw and learned how different people communicate in the working place. We have interacted with different people and all this has improved our communication skills. Supportive staff and a conducive

working environment have also contributed to make our stay pleasant,” she said.

“They learned the practical aspects of the Aflasafe technology, specifically biocontrol of aflatoxin. The field practical will help them remember what they learned theoretically. We hope that they will be good ambassadors in spreading the technology developed by IITA to other

students who have no knowledge of the technology,” said Reuben Samwel, IITA Research Supervisor at the Pathology Lab.

“The students had the opportunity to practice what they had learned in theory. In the Food Quality Lab, they learned the quantification of aflatoxin and preparing laboratory solutions, sample handling, and laboratory analysis. The practical prepares them to interact in the real

work environment,” said Audifas Gaspar, Research Supervisor at the Food Quality Lab.

IITA recognizes the importance of capacity development in strengthening research for development. Since inception, IITA has supported formal and informal training activities as part of its strategy to improve food security and reduce poverty in the region.

IITA Benin celebrates Walk for a Purpose

This year’s International Day for Biological Diversity focused on biodiversity as the foundation for our food and health and as a key catalyst to transforming food systems and improving human well-being.

According to António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres, the United Nations Secretary General: “From individual species through entire ecosystems, biological diversity is vital for human health and well-being. The quality of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe all depend on keeping the natural world in good health.”

IITA Benin joined millions of people around the world to celebrate the international biodiversity day on 22 May with a Walk for a Purpose.



IITA Benin staff walking for purpose

Talk-to-HR

As part of the efforts of Human Resources (HR) to sustain the culture of giving a voice to staff members, the Head of HR, Lilian Mendoza had announced in 2016, the opening of another convenient channel for IITA staff to express their views—whether suggestions, concerns, comments, enquiries.

On this platform, staff from all locations can directly approach the leadership of HR on talktoIITA-HR@cgiar.org.

HR welcomes:

- Feedback on our various HR programs and activities.
- Suggestions on how we can improve on our services.
- Requests for clarification on policies, processes, and procedures.



- Expression of concerns over workplace issues that may be affecting performance and productivity, and personal well-being.
- Ideas on how we can maintain an environment where our people can thrive, grow, and engage in fulfilling work.

HR sincerely appreciates staff members who have availed

themselves the opportunity created by the platform and welcome more interaction with staff via the medium.

Let’s all feel free to send constructive messages and be assured that you will receive a response within 24 hours.

Let’s keep talking to each other. We are one big IITA Team!

Contract review: May–July 2019

Name: Canon Norris Savala Engoke

Designation: Seed System Agronomist

Duty Station: Nampula, Mozambique

Topic: Agricultural technologies demanded for change in Mozambique

Date: 14 May



Name: Adeleke Ali

Designation: Head Finance and Administration, Southern Africa Hub

Duty Station: Zambia, Lusaka

Topic: Setting administration as an equal partner in effective research delivery

Date: 21 June



delivery, in a projectized IITA

Date: 8 July 2019

Name: Eveline Odiambo

Designation: Head Finance and Administration, Eastern Africa Hub

Duty Station: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Topic: Pragmatic administrative support for effective research results

Date: 18 July



Name: Alexander Nimo Wiredu

Designation: Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Duty Station: Nampula, Mozambique

Topic: Performance of improved seed dissemination initiative in Mozambique

Date: 15 May



Name: Charity Mutegi

Designation: East Africa Aflasafe Coordinator

Duty Station: Nairobi, Kenya

Topic: Transforming killer fields to safe grain baskets: Experiences from deployment of aflasafe KE01

Date: 25 June



Name: Sylvia Oyinlola

Designation: Head Administration, Western Africa Hub

Duty Station: Ibadan, Nigeria

Topic: Achieving integration in a matrix organization

Date: 18 July



Name: Lava Kumar

Designation: Head of Germplasm Health / Virology and Diagnostics

Duty Station: Ibadan, Nigeria

Topic: Discovery, development and delivery: Harnessing transdisciplinary sciences for plant germplasm biosecurity and virus threats prevention

Date: 31 May



Name: Joao Augusto

Designation: Plant Pathologist and Mozambique Aflasafe Coordinator

Duty Station: Nampula, Mozambique

Topic: Aflatoxin prediction models and management using Aflasafe and restoring agricultural livelihoods of relocated farmers

Date: 28 June



Name: Silvestro Kaka Meseka

Designation: Associate Scientist, Maize

Duty Station: Ibadan, Nigeria

Topic: Overcoming challenges in breeding maize for multiple-stress tolerance in the 21st Century

Date: 19 July



Name: Matieyidou Konlambigue

Designation: Managing Director, Aflasafe Technology Transfer Programme

Duty Station: Accra, Ghana

Topic: Commercializing international public goods in agricultural research: Lessons from the Aflasafe technology transfer and commercialization project

Date: 3 June



Name: Brigitte Uwimana

Designation: Banana Molecular Breeder

Duty Station: Kampala, Uganda

Topic: Progress towards marker-assisted breeding in banana

Date: 3 July



Name: Jacqueline Musiimenta

Designation: Head Finance and Administration, Central Africa Hub

Duty Station: Nairobi, Kenya

Topic: Administrative support services for effective research



Quotable quote

"If you are not willing to risk the usual, you will have to settle for the ordinary." ~ Jim Rohn

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