

2019 R4D Team Building: One IITA, One CGIAR!



One IITA, One CGIAR!

The IITA Research for Development week under the auspices of the R4D Directorate, led by the DDG-R4D, May-Guri Saethre, witnessed a successful turnout and interaction amongst Scientists, the Partnerships for Delivery (P4D) Directorate, the Senior Management Team, and the Board Members.

As part of the informal social interaction, a team-building session took place on 20 November at Cappa Bar, close to the mini-lake side. The team-building planning committee was chaired by Emanuele Tamo, IITA-Benin Country Representative, with the following people as committee members: Victor Manyong – Eastern Africa Hub Director, Lilian Mendoza – Head of Human Resources, Lava Kumar – Head of Germplasm Health unit, Katherine Lopez – Head of Communication, Lade Oke – HR Manager (NRS), and Helen Adeniji – Organizational Development Manager.

The 2½ hour team-building program was facilitated by the team-building planning committee and supported by the HR team. Participants were distributed into five color teams namely: White, Pink, Blue, Green, and Gray; while all planning committee

members and supporters wore black t-shirts. There was a total of 124 participants at the event and HR provided all the prizes.

The chosen venue was unique for the activities; trees provided shade for the judges, participants, and the activities. The judges for the team building activities were selected from various categories namely: The Board Chair – Amos Namanga, the Board Secretary – Jenny Cramer, the Director – Western Africa Hub, and two Teachers from IITA International School – Ms. Rhoda Okorie and Mr Tolu Odukoya.

Two activities were planned for the 2½ -hour program. In the first activity titled “Collaboration: Identifying with the theme”, the five teams, were asked to mime and make a presentation on the topic: “Visualizing IITA in the new One CGIAR”. The judges assessed the different teams based on: Content/ Message, Originality and creativity, and Performance and audience impact. This activity was mind-blowing as participants had 20 minutes to plan and 3 minutes to make their unique presentations. The Blue team came 1st, the Gray team 2nd, and the White team 3rd.

Whilst remaining in their respective teams, all were guided into the second activity titled “Pulling together”. The second activity was equally interesting and physically challenging. Teams had to pull one another together systematically standing on a wooden plank and holding a rope from the start line to the finish line. Participants were visibly excited, displayed teamwork in action, and determined to excel. Only the winning team won the chocolate bar prize – and this went to the Green Team!

The DG – Dr Sanginga while addressing the participants expressed his excitement about the success of the team building and stated that “this is the first time that the IITA Board Members, Senior Management Team and Scientists have participated in a team building”. He appreciated the whole team involved in the planning and delivery of the team building.

All team members shared what they had gained from the team building activities and were able to align the outcome of the activities to the reverberating theme of the R4D team building “One IITA, One CGIAR!”



Games on...



The determination...



The excitement...



The creativity...



The energy...



The confidence...



The joy



The surprise...



The team

2018 Annual Board Awards for Excellence

Outstanding Scientist

Dr Arega Alene - Agricultural Economist,



Assist in the coordination and expansion of IITA's portfolio of donor-funded projects on mycotoxins and biological control of aflatoxins.

Serve as the link between IITA's mycotoxin research group and CGIAR's Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) Program. IITA-Ibadan, Nigeria.

Talwana, H. "Plant-parasitic nematodes and food security in sub-Saharan Africa".



Lead socioeconomic studies on the profitability and end-user preferences of improved crop varieties and agronomic practices to guide technology development and seed delivery efforts;

Lead socioeconomic and policy studies on the extent, determinants (social, economic, institutional, and policy factors), and impacts of adoption of production technologies and related innovations .

Country Representative IITA-Lilongwe, Malawi

Outstanding Team

N2Africa Team



Virology and Germplasm Health Unit



Outstanding Support Staff

Samuel Fakunle

Sectional Head, IT Infrastructure, IITA-Ibadan, Nigeria



Most Promising Young Scientist

Dr Alejandro Ortega-Beltran - Plant Pathologist,



Outstanding Publication

Coyne, D., Cortada-Gonzalez, L., Dalzell, J. J., Claudius-Cole, A. O., Haukeland, S., Luambano, N. &

Quotable quote

"Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better"

- Pat Riley

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