

## Agriculture PS identifies priority collaboration areas with IITA to improve Tanzanian agriculture

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Gerald Kusaya, has said the Government of Tanzania is keen to strengthen collaboration with [IITA](#) in its ongoing efforts to develop the country's agriculture sector.

Kusaya was speaking to a delegation from IITA that had paid a courtesy visit on 22 February at his offices at the Ministry of Agriculture headquarters in Dodoma City to introduce the new IITA Director for Eastern Africa, [Dr Leena Tripathi](#).

The PS identified soil, improving farmers' knowledge on good agriculture practices, and combatting aflatoxin as some of the priority areas needing IITA support.

He noted that the government's emphasis was on the commercialization of agriculture to increase farmers' income, and therefore, IITA was

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Permanent Secretary, Mr Gerald Kusaya (center), flanked by Emeritus Director Victor Manyong (left) and Director for Eastern Africa, Dr Leena Tripathi (right), with other IITA staff.

## IITA promotes a gender-balanced environment

[IITA](#) has always maintained a policy of zero tolerance for discrimination. As usual, IITA joined the rest of the world to celebrate Zero Discrimination Day on 1 March by organizing a virtual seminar themed "End Inequality." The purpose was to create awareness on the concept of discrimination and how to guard against it in the workplace and society at large.



Onsite participants at the Zero Discrimination Day event.

On behalf of the management team, [Hilde Koper](#), Deputy Director General, Corporate Services, gave the opening address, noting that the need for awareness was due to the growing rate of inequality. She stated that IITA has and is still standing up for zero discrimination against women and the staff have been supportive in working against inequality. ‘Let us maintain an environment that women would love to work in. Think of what an equal world would look like and let us all work towards it,’ she said.

Helen Adeniji, IITA Organizational Development Manager, gave an overview on the concept of harassment and discrimination and their various forms. Wale Oladokun, IITA Employee

Services Manager, emphasized how to get help on harassment and discrimination-related issues. He stressed the need to speak up and politely state one’s case when harassed or discriminated against, especially since IITA has a policy against harassment and discrimination.

While highlighting staff’s roles and responsibilities in maintaining zero discrimination, Lade Oke, Human Resources Manager, stated that everyone is involved because maintaining zero discrimination is beyond one unit or even the management alone. Oke emphasized the need for all staff to be aware of IITA policy to not behave in ways that promote harassment and discrimination in the workplace. ‘Let

everyone contribute to promoting a good work environment by maintaining respectful relationships with all staff, avoiding gender jokes, and seeking to promote dignity,’ she said.

In conclusion, Oladokun highlighted some key take-away points, reiterating the need to speak up when necessary as nobody is infallible and IITA has zero tolerance for harassment and discrimination regardless of status.

To crown the event, a man—Olusegun Ajao, HR Technician; and woman—Ayooluwami Omoloye, HR Intern; were delegated as IITA ambassadors for Zero Discrimination and Harassment, after which staff embarked on a “walk for a purpose.”



*IITA Ambassadors for Zero Discrimination and Harassment leading the “walk for a purpose.”*

## **Take responsibility! Stop the spread of COVID-19!**

Always clean your hands; practice physical and social distancing; wear face masks properly; avoid crowds and public places; keep a 2-meter distance from the next person; and practice general sanitation and hygiene.

### Got a story to share?

Please send your story with photos and captions every Tuesday to [iita-news@cgiar.org](mailto:iita-news@cgiar.org) or Katherine Lopez ([k.lopez@cgiar.org](mailto:k.lopez@cgiar.org)) and Uzoma Agha ([u.agha@cgiar.org](mailto:u.agha@cgiar.org)) for headquarters and Western Africa, Catherine Njuguna ([c.njuguna@cgiar.org](mailto:c.njuguna@cgiar.org)) for Eastern and Southern Africa, and David Ngome ([d.ngome@cgiar.org](mailto:d.ngome@cgiar.org)) for Central Africa.



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needed to continue supporting efforts to train farmers and extension officers on improved agricultural practices to increase productivity and quality of crops.

“We want Tanzanian billionaires from the agriculture sector, and to achieve this, we must increase investment in the sector so that our farmers can become commercial farmers and make use of existing technologies to increase production, diagnose and control pests and diseases, and communicate with the market on time,” said Kusaya.

The PS also requested the Institute to cooperate and support the Government’s plan to assess the soils in each ward so that farmers can know their soil type and the appropriate fertilizers needed.

“One challenge many farmers face in productivity is lack of knowledge on the characteristics of their soils; the

government has plans to distribute soil testing kits to extension officers so that they can advise farmers accordingly. However, given the high number of councils in the country, IITA can assist the government in acquiring more equipment,” the PS said.

The Permanent Secretary also noted that farmers still needed education on postharvest management to help them reduce crop losses and especially avoid aflatoxin problems. He therefore urged IITA to intensify collaboration in the fight against aflatoxin and postharvest management.

On her part, Tripathi, the Institute’s new Eastern Africa Regional Hub Director, said IITA is ready to continue collaborating with the government in the identified priority areas and others. She made a presentation to the PS and the agriculture

ministry team on IITA and One CGIAR, illustrating the Institute’s contribution to the transformation of agriculture in Tanzania.

The Director was accompanied by Emeritus Director [Victor Manyong](#); IITA Head of Resource Mobilization, [Regina Kapinga](#); country coordinator for Africa Cassava Agronomy Initiative (ACAI), [Frederick Baijukya](#); and Head of Finance and Administration, [Eveline Odiambo](#).

During the visit, the Emeritus Director introduced the new Director to the Director General of the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), Geoffrey Mkamilo, and led a discussion on strengthening collaboration between the two institutions. While in Dodoma, the team also visited the Agriculture Sector Development Programme II (ASDP II) coordination team in the Prime Minister’s office.

## Integrated Agriculture Activity conducts peace-enabling training for crop and livestock farmers in North-East Nigeria

The USAID-funded Feed-the-Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity conducted a series of training on crop residue utilization and feed formulation for farmer and herder groups’ representatives, large-scale farmers, local livestock feed processors, livestock feed sellers, nutrition liaison officers, and extension agents in Yola (Adamawa State) between 18 and 20 February and in Biu (Borno State) between 24 February and 1 March.

The training, facilitated by the Activity experts from [IITA](#) and [ICRISAT](#), should contribute to the reduction in crop residue waste, minimize the cost of livestock production, increase productivity and income of farmers, promote a healthy and beneficial relationship between livestock farmers



Activity Staff Mubarak Hussein demonstrating crop residue crushing to the participants during the training.

and crop farmers, and significantly reduce the age-long tension and clashes between the herders and farmers.

The participants were trained on methods of processing crop residues to increase the efficiency of utilization by livestock, including feeding mixture proportion for different classes of ruminants (such as pregnant, lactating, fattening, and general ruminants), economic and financial benefits of crop residue utilization and the machine's operational techniques and maintenance. Some of the ingredients for the feed mixture are stalks of millet, sorghum, maize, rice straw, cowpea hay, cotton seed, groundnut haulm, maize chaff, and others. The training also featured "Salt Leak" production, a supplement mixture that aims to balance the nutrient deficiency in the feed mixture and boost livestock's physiological development.

One hundred and sixty-six (166) participants comprising 129 males and 37 females (33 representatives of farmers groups, 67 Livestock farmers/feed sellers, 23 Livestock feed processors, 5 Nutrition Liaison Officers, 32 extension agents, 5 supervisors,

and 1 Desk Officer) from Hong, Song and Gombi LGAs (of Adamawa state), and Biu, Shani, Bayo, Kwaya Kusar and Hawul LGAs (of Borno state) attended the training.

The process is already under way to link the trained participants and other interested private sector entrepreneurs to the fabricators of the chopper/crusher. The trained participants have been provided with the option to purchase the equipment either individually or as groups. The fabricators have given their commitment to train them on the use and maintenance of the equipment. The crusher, a technology designed by an IITA partner, is being fabricated by a local business in Nigeria and can crush 4 tons of crop residue per day.

In the Activity area, crushed/chopped crop residues are very much in demand. It serves as an alternate source of feed for herder's livestock. Smallholder farmers also use this as a source of food for their livestock and small ruminants. The utilization of crop residues and their sales provide an additional income source for the smallholder farmers and private sector entrepreneurs engaged in residue

trading. Depending on the crop, a smallholder farmer can collect between 2 to 7 tons of residue from a hectare of land. At the current market price, a farmer can earn between N40,000 and N85,000 (about \$1,000 to 2,000+) per ton from selling crop residues. Likewise, traders also make at least a 30% margin from trading these residues. The Activity has already seen strong and healthy partnerships between livestock and crop farmers, potentially eliminating the age-long tension and clashes between the herders and farmers. This contributes to the enhanced social cohesion in the communities as well as building on the social capital.

In addition, on 3 February, Activity Subgrantee partner's ICRISAT Nigeria CD was featured on a 30-minute radio and 15-minute TV program at Gotel Communications, Yola tagged "ABGRIBIZ" with ICRISAT's Country Director, Dr Hakeem Ajeigbe. The use of crop residue as livestock feed and how it could help to curb the increased clashes between farmers and herders if properly utilized was the key theme. The discussion also featured the nutritional benefits of sorghum and millet for animals.



Participants during a seminar session.