

## ENABLE-TAAT partners with banks to provide business credit to trained African youth

ENABLE-TAAT is supporting its beneficiaries by linking them to financial institutions that can help start-ups and existing businesses.



Staff from ENABLE-TAAT and Equity Bank, Tanzania.

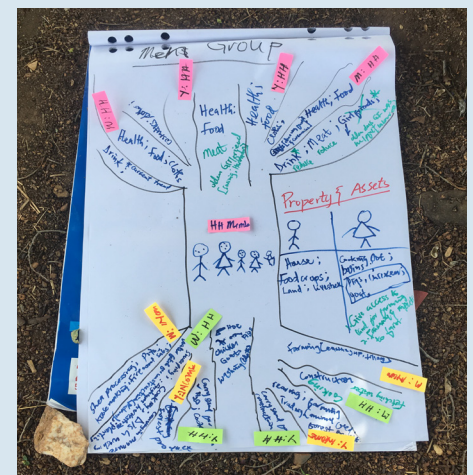
Youth often have a challenge accessing funding and raising capital for their businesses, whether as loans or grants. Many youth begin their enterprises with their savings and support from their families or acquaintances, but such funds may not sufficiently cater to their business plans. In other cases, the youth may form a cluster and combine their financial strengths to build the enterprise.

ENABLE-TAAT has established a relationship with Equity Bank to support growing enterprises of trained youth. The bank is committed to this effort and has highlighted its requirements, which are not difficult for new enterprises to meet. In Tanzania, the bank agreed to receive and review the business plan for the youth group that received training

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## Researchers give decision-makers tools for better SAI interventions

Africa is a major producer of several kinds of cereals like sorghum, millet, wheat, maize, and rice, yet there is a wide gap between actual and potential yields for these cereals. Total production is not keeping up with the increase in population, leading to intensifying production with more commercial inputs. However, the environmental concerns from intensified agriculture have led to serious questions about agricultural sustainability. Together these concerns have driven a movement towards Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI) as a potential strategy to avert predicted catastrophes of widespread hunger and severe land degradation.



Gender and youth balance tree, Northern Ghana. Photo: Africa RISING-SAIRLA/IITA

The need to emphasize inclusive SAI stems from the long-held recognition of women's critical role in agriculture and the growing attention to youth engagement in agriculture. Also, the need for inclusive SAI is supported by evidence that gender and youth inclusiveness are important determinants of adopting intensified practices.

A [study](#) was carried out in Malawi and Ghana, using primary and secondary data about data-collection tools for detecting gender and youth inequities, including the demand for the tools, their requirements, and the information they provide. A research team, including [Gundula Fischer](#), IITA's Social Scientist and Gender Expert, and led by Philip Grabowski from the Environmental Science, Public Health and Sustainability Department at Taylor University, USA, carried out the study.

The team interviewed decision-makers in the target areas to understand their needs and practices for equity analysis. Tools were evaluated, adapted, and tested to detect inequities from SAI. "Based on decision makers' priorities, we focused on tools that are affordable, can provide timely assessment, are feasible in terms of human resources,

are useful for ex-ante analysis, and can support gender transformative approaches," said Grabowski.

The results demonstrated the suitability of participatory data collection tools to decision makers' need for ex-ante assessment and early detection of disparities. Information was also synthesized from testing and adapting tools about the resources required, the equity issues that can be revealed, and their potential role in a gender-transformative approach.

According to the research, the tools presented match the needs of decision-makers in research locations, are useful for facilitating inclusive SAI, and can support the complex process of transforming systemic gender and youth inequities.

The team emphasized that when these tools are used appropriately, they can help fill the gap in viable methods for assessing social sustainability in agricultural intensification.

"The data collection tools we have presented support a fundamental first step towards inclusive SAI by helping decision-makers to foresee differentiated effects of agricultural interventions," said Grabowski.



*Africa produces several kinds of cereals, including maize, millet, rice, sorghum, and wheat.*

For most agricultural projects, gendered differences in SAI impacts are age-specific, hence the study suggests adapting gender tools to detect youth and gender inequities together, especially when lacking a youth-specific analysis tool.

## ENABLE-TAAT partners with banks to provide business credit

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on poultry farming in November 2020 to begin the loan application process. The group has its guarantors, while ENABLE-TAAT provides backstopping so that the youth can use the funds effectively.

The relationship with Equity Bank extends to Uganda, where the bank has already assessed and certified 219 youth-led enterprises for loan applications. So far,

76 of them have received loan packages. The team in Uganda is working to secure partnerships with other banks that have special offers for agribusiness development.

In Nigeria, Sterling Bank has stated its commitment to fund enterprises of 34 ENABLE-TAAT beneficiaries. So far, about 18 start-ups have already received

account-opening packages with a 9% interest rate, with the possibility to access more funding as their businesses expand.

Currently, more beneficiaries are opening their agribusiness accounts with Sterling Bank. These partnerships establish a structure by which youth can have guaranteed access to capital immediately after training.

### 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.gha@cgiar.org](mailto:u.gha@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.

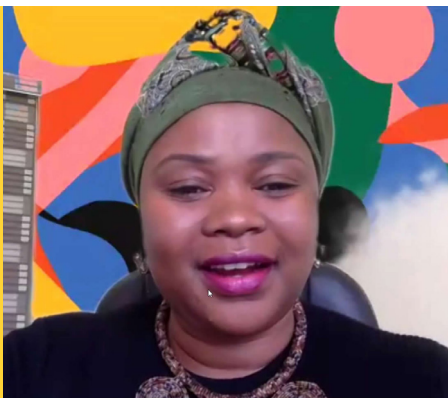


## Take responsibility! Stop the spread of COVID-19!

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.

# Youth to contribute innovative solutions to world hunger

The World Food Forum has called for the massive involvement of youth in developing sustainable solutions to the world's food and hunger problems. The call came during the recent Youth Transformative Challenge webinar.



*I-Youth Executive Manager Aline Mugisho speaking on the role of youth in feeding Africa.*

FAO's Chief Economist and Scientist, Máximo Torero Cullen, told the global audience that youth have a critical role in bringing "out-of-the-box" ideas to create lasting solutions to our food problems. Cullen said, "The World Food Forum is an opportunity to harness the passion of youth, through science, to transform our agri-food systems sustainably. Youth question things differently than the older generation; hence we need this heterogeneity of lenses to work together."

The agri-food system is very complex, interrelated with health, economic development, disease prevention, research, food sources, consumption, and distribution. Youth innovative contributions, coupled with the expertise of older scientists and researchers, will be geared towards achieving

zero hunger, the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2).

Innovative Youth in Agriculture Project (I-Youth) Executive Manager Aline Mugisho and Agricultural Economist Tesfamichael Wossen from [IITA](#) and Luciana Delgado from [IFPRI](#), all [CGIAR](#) scientists, were among the panelists. Speaking from Nigeria, Mugisho said her role is to ensure that youth play their part in feeding the continent in a sustainable and waste-free way. She noted that youth are primarily on the consumer side and not the producer side, so they hardly get a choice to consider agriculture as a research opportunity due to the limited information disseminated to them.

Mugisho added that IITA has been making sure that youth get the required

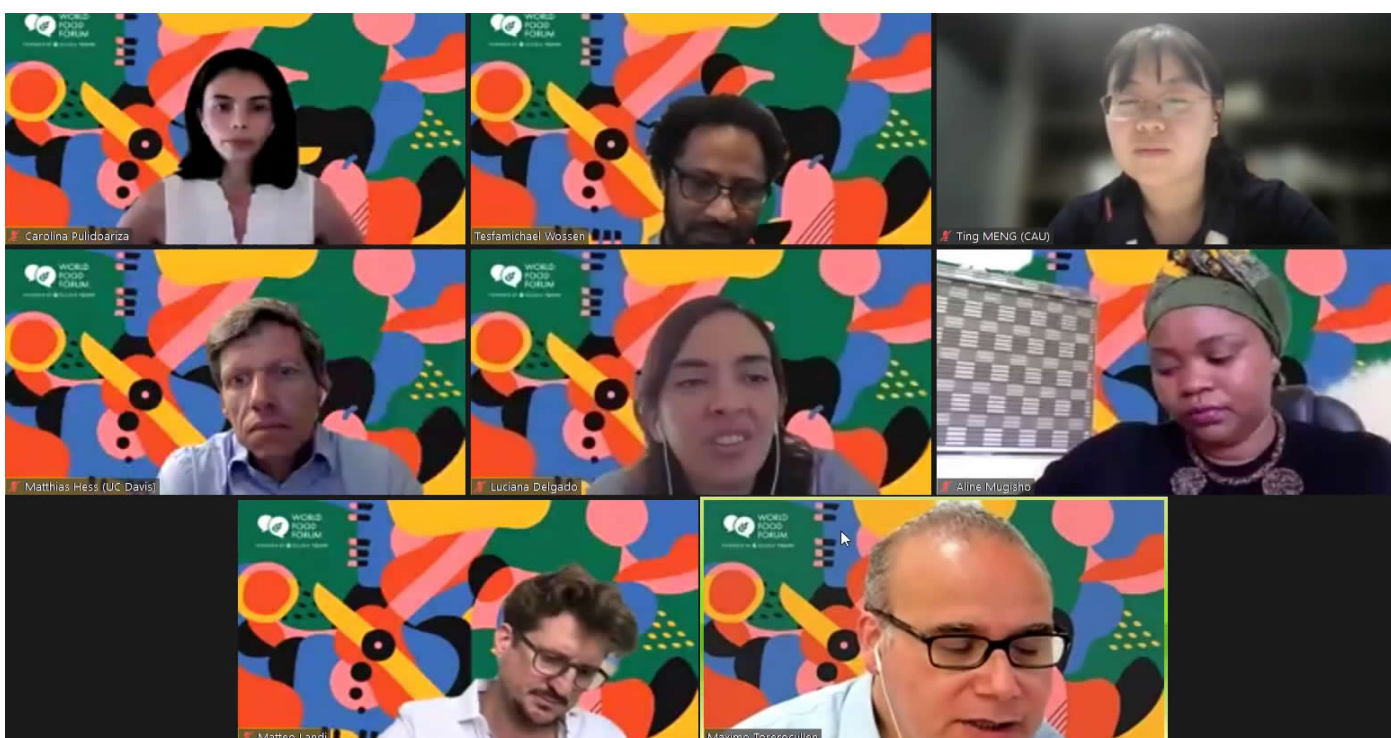
information they need in terms of research, media, market, value-addition, outreach, and so on to make them agripreneurs; and even engage them early from secondary schools in the Start Them Early Program, STEP.

Wossen said his research explores how climate-smart innovations contribute to the transformation of agri-food systems. He is currently conducting research in the food security and poverty areas of technological innovations generated by the CGIAR, which are directly related to the World Food Forum's 4Bs: Better Life, Better Production, Better Environment and, Better Nutrition. He is also researching scaling strategies for nutrition and food safety innovations such as Aflasafe, a biocontrol product to manage aflatoxin contamination.

Speakers from the A5 alliance also introduced the research areas they were focusing on to solve hunger issues and improve the SDGs.

Cullen said if he could go back in time as a young researcher, "The governance failure at the distribution and coordination of policies related to food solutions is what I would love to work on and change."

He challenged all—young, old, and middle-aged, to harness the opportunity provided by COVID-19 to take up conversations that will inspire many to work on solutions to the 4Bs.



*Participants and facilitators in the Youth Transformative Challenge webinar.*

# BOWEN strengthens partnership with IITA to promote student and youth entrepreneurship

[IITA](#) continually partners with government and private organizations, including universities, to advance agricultural activities and promote digitalization in Africa. [BOWEN University](#) has been a partner of IITA for many years, especially on agricultural and capacity development programs.



Professor Joshua Ogunwole, Vice-Chancellor of BOWEN University touring IITA facilities under the Business Incubation Platform (BIP).

On a recent visit, Professor Joshua Ogunwole, Vice Chancellor, BOWEN University, accompanied by the University's principal officers, sought to strengthen existing partnerships and identify new areas of collaboration with the Institute.

The Vice Chancellor and his team were welcomed by IITA Management staff. In his welcome remarks, IITA Director General [Nteranya Sanginga](#) stated that IITA is happy to collaborate with BOWEN, being a top-notch university. "We want a win-win situation for BOWEN and IITA," he said.

IITA Deputy Director General, Partnerships for Delivery, [Kenton Dashiell](#), reaffirmed the DG's words. He said BOWEN prepares students to be entrepreneurial and innovative, thus, making it more than the regular traditional university that focuses on education alone.

[Zaina Sore](#), Head of Capacity Development Office (CDO), shared CDO's activities and IITA's longstanding history of partnering with universities. She highlighted areas of partnership available to universities such as internships, Industrial Training (IT), National Youth Service Corps (NYSC),

volunteering, graduate fellowships, training courses, and sabbaticals. She explained how lecturers and students could benefit from these programs.

Ogunwole explained that the current administration in BOWEN came with a restructuring agenda and are eager to start the work. He emphasized how IITA has made a tremendous impact in Africa, making it an institute with whom others want to partner.

He identified new areas of collaboration, including capacity development for students and staff, research, digitizing the library, and youth empowerment on entrepreneurship and soft skills development. "We do not just give degrees; we want our students to be entrepreneurs. We also want capacity building for Baptist youth throughout Nigeria so that they can be profitably engaged," he said.

[Kayode Awobajo](#), Head of IITA's Project Development and Administration Unit (PDAU), explained the partnership agreements IITA has with BOWEN. The institutions have signed various memoranda of understanding (MoU), including one earlier this year. "This is an opportunity to promote and strengthen what both institutions already have," he said.

Responding to the suggested areas of partnership, Dashiell noted that IITA and BOWEN have similar values and goals. He pointed out that this partnership would benefit both institutions. "I am excited about the areas of partnership, and everyone has a role in moving the partnership forward, not only the DG and Vice Chancellor," he said.

The team went on a tour of the Institute and later signed an MoU to seal the partnership.



Professor Joshua Ogunwole in a meeting with IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA).