

CGIAR and partners advocate gender-responsive climate actions at Bonn Conference side event

The [CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform](#), [Women Engage for a Common Future \(WECF\)](#), and [Women Environment Programme \(WEP\)](#) co-organized an official side event at the [Bonn Climate Change Conference](#). [to page 3](#)



Moderator Gina Cortés Valderrama (left) introducing the panelists at the beginning of the event.

RUNRES supports circular economy entrepreneur turning cassava waste into livestock feed



Cassava, a major staple crop in Rwanda, is an essential source of calories and income for rural households. Besides household consumption, industrial production and processing have led to an environmental nightmare because of the volume of waste generated, particularly cassava peels.

Dumping of cassava peels causes environmental challenges.

This represents a significant loss, with the cassava peels making up about 20% of tubers.

A small cassava processing firm in the Kamonyi District of Rwanda's Southern Province, Akanoze Nyamiyaga Ltd, is changing the narrative about cassava waste by turning it into revenue. Founded by Alice Nyirasagamba in 2018, the business processes cassava into flour for cooking and baking.

Following exposure to the High-Quality Cassava Peels (HQCP) technology developed by [IITA](#) and partners, the business added a processing unit to its existing operations to produce and sell HQCP mash to poultry farmers. The HQCP mash is a perfect animal feed ingredient, which can be fed to

livestock without further processing or mixed with other animal feeds to feed animals.

"We use between 12 and 15 tonnes of fresh cassava daily in the first processing unit, and waste generated is processed into animal feed ingredients in the newly constructed unit," Nyirasagamba said.

As the demand for the HQCP mash increases, the business faces significant challenges affecting its production capacity. The firm is securing its raw materials through supply deals with cassava farmers and cooperatives.

"We started buying 500 kilograms of peels from farmers daily, but today we are buying about four tonnes of them

per day. We have a machine that turns the peels into livestock feed livestock species, namely poultry, cows, pigs, goats, and others," she continued.

"Our activities help protect the environment as these peels were left scattered on the ground and would cause environmental degradation because some farmers used to burn them, and the smoke harms the environment and human health," she added. Besides the environmental advantages, this circular economy enterprise has already employed eight casual staff (five men and three women) and generated about Rwf25 million (US\$25,000).

Nyirasagamba said she received technical and financial support from the Rural-Urban Nexus (RUNRES) project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich (ETH Zurich) and IITA.

IITA Technical and Partnerships Officer Speciose Kantengwa said that the RUNRES initiative to turn agricultural waste into valuable products operates in four countries—DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and South Africa. "Cassava peels are a threat to the environment in rural and urban areas, and the project seeks to address such waste accumulation by turning it into livestock feed. There is a need for such factories in every district to turn cassava waste into livestock feed. Entrepreneurs should tap into this opportunity," Kantengwa said.



Factory workers sorting the peels for processing High Quality Cassava Peels (HQCP) flour.

Got a story to share?

Please send your story with photos and captions every Tuesday to iita-news@cgiar.org or Katherine Lopez (k.lopez@cgiar.org) and Uzoma Agha (u.gha@cgiar.org).



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.

The event themed: “High stakes, great urgency: Collecting evidence for gender-just and impactful climate policies,” took place on 14 June. It showcased actions from different stakeholders to advance the Gender Action Plan & national climate roadmaps.

CGIAR GENDER presented [new evidence from a hotspot mapping methodology](#) that reveals where climate change affects women the most, thereby providing direction to where investments in actions to address these inequalities should focus.

The event’s objective was to inform decision-making bodies, policymakers, and practitioners on the cross-cutting benefits of locally owned and gender-responsive climate mitigation and adaptation actions. It underlined the need to support the evidence base and disaggregated data collection to demonstrate the impact of gender-responsive solutions. It also aimed to build bridges and open new spaces for exchanging experiences and views among local practitioners, researchers, and policymakers. It contributed to the good agricultural practices (GAP) mandate and review by disseminating local practices that can be replicated in regional and national contexts.

The event featured a panel discussion to share different contributions of the gender action plan in activities, including how women and girls are agents of

change, demonstrating the impact of gender-transformative solutions.

Moderator Gina Cortés Valderrama, Women Engage for a Common Future Women and Gender Constituency–Facilitative Committee, emphasized that discussions would promote the understanding of different perspectives on how gender-just and community-led climate initiatives enhance human rights and contribute to mitigation and adaptation policies and actions.

The first panelist, Agnes Mirembe, Executive Director, Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment (ARUWE), Uganda, spoke on “Towards a just, equitable and community-based energy transition.” She shared the many challenges women face in accessing, using, and distributing energy in Uganda and the process of transforming such challenges. A major challenge she mentioned was traditional constraints linked to traditional gender roles. “To alleviate the constraints, we build the capacity of local women to understand their rights and to have skills in demand. It helps them understand the issues on ground and what they can bring to the table,” she said.

Fatou Ndoye, Coordinator of ENDA Graf Sahel, Senegal, spoke on gender relationships in the fishery industry in the Saloum Delta. She shared the contributions of ENDA Graf Sahel to the significant shift of power

relationships and labor division within the communities through a holistic approach and how this has enabled women to create and participate in fishing regulation committees.

Maria Victoria Bojacá, General Director of ENDA Colombia, Colombia, highlighted an urban, sustainable, and gender-just solidarity economy model that challenges masculinities. At the same time, Nicoline de Haan, Director of CGIAR GENDER Platform, spoke on “How evidence and research can bring climate justice for rural women.”

WEP Founder and Global Lead Priscilla Achakpa spoke on raising awareness of the Gender Action Plan and highlighting the lessons learned from WEP in Nigeria. She explained that WEP creates awareness from the grassroots to the national level, which informs the policies. “We consult people at the grassroots to tell us what they want to see because when people are at the center of policies, implementation will take place easily,” she said.

In her closing remarks, Valderrama highlighted how the discussion showed the multiple benefits that gender-sensitive climate actions bring to the well-being of communities by strengthening national policies. She commended the panelists for the eye-opening discussions and appreciated the participants’ active engagement.

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Participants engaging panelists with questions.

Stakeholders prepare for TAAT 2 after a successful first phase

The [Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation \(TAAT\)](#), a project sponsored by the [African Development Bank \(AfDB\)](#), organized a four-day appraisal workshop at [IITA](#) headquarters from 14 to 17 June. The workshop focused on discussing the achievements of the project's first phase and plans for the second phase. TAAT compact leaders, TAAT monitoring and evaluation team, and AfDB team attended the workshop.

TAAT is implemented by IITA to increase agricultural productivity and reach out to four million smallholder farmers across Africa.

Representing IITA Director General [Nteranya Sanginga](#), Deputy Director General Corporate Services [Hilde Koper](#) welcomed the participants to the first physical workshop after the COVID-19 pandemic. Koper gushed over the project's achievements and how staff members have been recycled between AfDB and IITA. "I wish you have good reviews, discussions, and communications to ensure a successful TAAT II," she said.

The Director of Development and Delivery Office, [Alfred Dixon](#), commended TAAT for its tremendous progress over the years and for being a unique flagship program of AfDB designed to help Africa. He highlighted some of the project's achievements in phase one, including the deployment of numerous improved climate-smart crop varieties, development of immediate impact, diverse and accelerated seed production and delivery system, and development of fall armyworm control strategies.

He mentioned that despite the progress made by TAAT 1, "we envisage that



Left: TAAT Program Management Unit Coordinator, Chrysantus Akem, explaining the importance of partnerships to improve agricultural sustainability. Right: Wheat Compact Leader, Zewdie Bishaw, presenting the compact's planned activities.



TAAT 2 would be based on TAAT 1 objectives and sustain the momentum towards ensuring African food system."

TAAT Program Coordinator, [Chrysantus Akem](#), summarized the program implementation structure focused on partnerships, which will help sustain agricultural transformation through the compacts. He also spelled out some of the lessons from TAAT 1, including careful monitoring and documentation and building staff capacity.

The AfDB Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, [Martin Fregene](#), explained that the African Emergency Food Production Plan (AEFPP) is a facility that would be used in TAAT 2 to improve the food system in Africa, as AEFPP would help to mitigate the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war due to food loss and correct fractural problems in Africa. In addition, he highlighted that AEFPP would emphasize policy reforms by ensuring that there is no barrier in disseminating innovations to farmers across the entire value chain.

The facility will also focus on making farm inputs available and affordable to 20 million farmers, using smart subsidies to direct and support farmers, and employing existing private sector distribution channels of farm inputs.

Furthermore, Fregene mentioned that TAAT would be central to AEFPP projects in 30 countries focusing on commodities such as wheat, maize, rice, and soybean. Therefore, TAAT would help get the different seed varieties and support extension activities through innovation. "We will continue to support our African farmers and people who are incredibly affected by hikes in food prices," he stated.

Moreover, the workshop featured discussions and presentations from TAAT compact leaders on wheat, maize, rice, cassava, high iron beans, and sorghum. AfDB also provided updates on the program's financial management and future activities.

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TAAT stakeholders and other workshop participants.

IITA to provide advisory services to agricultural start-up company, Ohunalumani Limited

The head of [Ohunalumani Limited](#), Akintunde Boboye, and his team visited [IITA](#) on 9 June, seeking partnership and collaboration avenues with the Institute in crop production, export, and land maximization for improved food security in Nigeria. IITA Deputy Director General (DDG) Partnerships for Delivery [Kenton Dashiell](#) received the team with West Africa Hub Director [Michael Abberton](#), Advocacy Promotion and Outreach Lead [Godwin Atser](#), and Head of Capacity Development Office [Zainatou Soré](#).



IITA DDG Partnerships for Delivery, Kenton Dashiell (right), welcoming Akintunde Boboye, Head of Ohunalumani Limited.

Stating the purpose of their visit, Boboye said, “We are a private company newly coming into agriculture. We are looking to work with IITA in research and production of food crops, intending to expand our work to most southwestern states of Nigeria.”

Their visit was inspired by Boboye’s personal experience of land degradation and the vast array of

untapped arable land, useful for crop cultivation, exports, employment generation, and the development of the Nigerian economy.

The IITA management team assured the intending investors of the Institute’s support with research outputs, advisory services, market options, and other relevant resources. Abberton said, “We offer advisory services that cover

areas such as the best variety of crops to plant, soil fertility testing, market connections, among others.”

Soré responded to the team’s request: “It is exciting to see young people enter agriculture. We would be glad to provide services in stakeholder engagement, capacity development initiatives, training, and value chain development.”



The team lauded IITA’s interests and willingness to offer valued partnerships to varied agricultural partners. Dashiell said, “While we are wonderful in science, we also take great pleasure in building strong partnerships that help millions of people and drive the impact of our science.” He emphasized that IITA takes every potential partner as the best partner it would ever have. The team wrapped up their visit with a tour around the campus to better familiarize themselves with IITA. *Contributed by Folake Oduntan*



*Top left: The Ohunalumani Limited delegation meeting with some IITA management staff.
Bottom: The Ohunalumani Limited team with members of IITA management staff after the meeting.*