

DG Sanginga appointed President of the Exchange Commission of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria

[IITA](#) Director General Dr [Nteranya Sanginga](#) has been appointed as interim Chairman of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Nigeria Business Forum by President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo of the DRC. This platform creates a Chamber of Commerce between the two countries.



IITA Director General Nteranya Sanginga is the interim Chairman of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Nigeria Business Forum.

This title was granted to him during the last meeting of the Makutano forum hosted by the presidency of the Republic, during which President Tshisekedi welcomed the former President of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, with business people ready to invest in the DRC in general and in the agro-food sector.

The Makutano Forum is a pan-African exchange meeting organized yearly in DRC since 2015. The objective is to promote the potential wealth that African countries have in general and DRC and develop Africa. The founder of The Makutano Forum is Mrs Nicole Sulu from DRC.

Furthermore, during this forum, the Kaduna State Governor, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, will serve as the Interim Deputy President, while Pacific Kahasha and Ambassador Leke Adebisi will be Interim Secretary and Interim Deputy Secretary, respectively.

DG Sanginga thanked the President of the DRC, Tshisekedi, and “Baba” Obasanjo for this appointment and argued that: “Agricultural activity should be considered as a commercial activity and non-social...the government should support agricultural entrepreneurship.”

DRC could be considered a global food solution country capable of feeding approximately 2 billion people worldwide. It has a surface area of 2,345,410 km² and potential such as 80 million ha of arable land, 4 million ha of irrigable land (of which only 1% is cultivated), 4 million head of cattle, and a fishing density estimated at 700,000 tons of fish per year. *Contributed by Michèle Kimpwene*

IITA scientist receives prestigious award for food safety professionals

The prestigious International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) has awarded [IITA-CGIAR](#) Scientist [Titilayo Falade](#) a Travel Award for Food Safety Professionals working full-time in the field of food safety in a country with a developing economy. Falade, a recipient of the 2021 award, received the award at the 2022 IAFP conference in Pittsburgh, USA, after missing the 2021 event due to logistical challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr Titilayo Falade showcasing her Travel Award for Food Safety Professionals 2021.

Falade is an Associate Scientist with IITA's Pathology/Mycotoxin and Aflasafe Unit. She received this support in recognition of her contributions to food safety, including mycotoxin research in sub-Saharan Africa and food adulteration research. The award also acknowledges her work mentoring graduate students in food safety.

The conference allowed Falade to share her knowledge and collaborate

with other researchers in addressing global food safety research. At the 2022 conference, she presented her research titled "Controlled fermentation with selected lactobacilli and yeast probiotics decontaminates aflatoxins in maize gruel and changes the amino acid profile differentially."

IAFP's mission is "To provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information

on protecting the food supply." Every year over 3,500 global members of the IAFP attend the annual meeting from over 50 countries. (<https://www.foodprotection.org/about/past-awardees/travel-award-for-food-safety-professionals-in-a-country-with-a-developing-economy>).

IAFP publishes the Journal of Food Protection, the leading global publication dedicated to food safety. *Contributed by Titilayo Falade*

Agricultural commercialization improves farmers' welfare

Food insecurity, child malnutrition, and rural poverty remain key issues that sub-Saharan Africa continues to deal with. This is partly because most smallholder farmers are engaged in low-intensity, subsistence-oriented farming, resulting in low yields and insufficient income to access nutritious foods. Sustained agricultural productivity growth and commercialization are required to address these challenges.

Against this background, [Julius Manda](#), an Agricultural Economist for the Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) East and Southern Africa (ESA) project and other [IITA-CGIAR](#) researchers conducted some studies related to agricultural commercialization, food security, and nutrition in smallholder farm households. Their research tested the hypothesis of a positive correlation between commercialization and household dietary diversity, food security, and child nutrition in Ghana, Malawi, and Tanzania.

Presenting the findings of the research in a seminar moderated by [Leena Tripathi](#), IITA Director for Eastern Africa Hub, Manda's results revealed how agricultural commercialization



Farmers selling farm produce.

increased household dietary diversity and food security in the three countries.

In the study conducted in Tanzania, farmers' concurrent participation in maize and legume markets resulted in the highest welfare gains compared with participating in the maize or legume markets alone. Moreover, participation in maize and legume markets increased with education, land, productive farm assets, adoption of improved technologies, and credit. Thus, promoting the adoption of intercropping and organic fertilizer applications is crucial to ensure the surplus of maize and legumes in markets. However, market participation decreased due to droughts resulting in the need to encourage climate-smart agriculture.



Agricultural Economist for Africa RISING ESA project, Julius Manda, led the study conducted in Tanzania.

The seminar is part of a contract review process. *Contributed by Anita Akinyomade and Julius Manda*

IITA celebrates rural women's contribution to cassava seed system in Tanzania

Women are at the forefront of development in all sectors of society, and within the agricultural sector of developing countries, the labor burden of rural women exceeds that of men. Women account for approximately 60–80% of agricultural labor while also handling complex household activities. The United Nations General Assembly declared 15 October as the International Day of Rural Women to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in rural places toward rural and agricultural development.

This year, the [IITA-CGIAR Muhogo Bora](#) project, which aims at developing gender-responsive cassava seed systems in Tanzania, celebrated rural women farmers with whom they work. The project team honored this important

day, acknowledging the role rural women farmers play as active agents of economic and social development. IITA Post-Doctoral Gender Research Fellow [Millicent Liani](#) led this activity, noting that women have been hindered from successfully participating as Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs) due to a lack of access to land, limited start-up capital, gendered social norms, and unpaid familial care duties.

"We believe in a world free of limits placed on women; that is why we design and implement interventions to reach more women and marginalized groups with targeted outreach in the Western and Central Zones of Tanzania. We believe this will lead to a socially inclusive cassava seed system," she highlighted in the [Muhogo Bora project blog](#).

As part of the activities to empower more women as CSEs, Muhogo Bora is working to strengthen the linkages between the agricultural extension system—which comprises mainly male officers who have not recognized the specific constraints facing women farmers—and community development officers, to better support all cassava farmers with a significant focus on women.

[Tanzania women farmers were interviewed during the rural women's day celebration](#) to share their journey with a focus on their contributions and achievements in the cassava seed system. A cassava farmer in Tanzania's Tabora Region, Flora Mazuke, revealed how she has been able to send her children to school, support her husband to build a house, and purchase livestock through her earnings from cassava farming. "As a woman, I appeal for empowerment to get improved cassava seeds," she added. Mariam Kauli, another cassava farmer in the region, also shared how she was able to pay some of her children's dowry, send others to school, and build a house for herself through the money she earned from cassava farming.

Liani and the team appreciated rural women cassava farmers across the globe for their resilience, hard work, and immense contribution to ensuring that there is food on every family table. *Contributed by Ochuwa Favour Daramola*



Top: Agricultural extension and community development officers deliberating on how to support women CSEs. Bottom right: Millicent Liani and Flora Mazuke in her cassava farm in Tabora, Tanzania. Bottom left: Millicent Liani and Yoseba Lucas in her cassava farm in Tabora, Tanzania. Photos: IITA/Hadi Rashid.

APDC's project delivery boosted by IITA capacity development contribution

Collaboration across institutions has become standard, leading to geometric success in many organizations. The [Africa Project Development Centre \(APDC\)](#), a training institution handling projects designed to build the innovative capacity of potential entrepreneurs across Africa, enjoyed such partnership as the organization's staff participated in a training exercise anchored by [IITA-CGIAR](#). As a leading agricultural project delivery and development organization, IITA-CGIAR prioritizes capacity development, engaging the APDC staff in a week-long instructional exercise at the Institute's headquarters in Ibadan, Nigeria, from 3 to 9 October.

The training was designed to expand the team's technical know-how to run development projects in the agricultural sector. The facilitators

dealt with budgeting and finance, resource mobilization, communication and knowledge management, youth in agribusiness, hospitality and travel services, and project management.

APDC Finance and Administration Service Manager, Adannaya Okpara, revealed that IITA Director General [Nteranya Sanginga](#) provided the platform for their young organization, which is about four years old, to learn from a mother institution as old as IITA. The leaders of both organizations have a working relationship they are happy to leverage. She said, "APDC is harnessing IITA as a strategic capacity development partner to offer leadership and management development programs that would enhance effective project development." They also hope to gain knowledge from the different units of IITA, including its activities,

modes of operation, and tested processes engaged to achieve the institution's goal of enriching African agriculture.

Head of IITA Project Development and Administration Unit (PDAU), [Kayode Awobajo](#), emphasized the importance of project development to the team. He described it as a tool to anticipate possibilities and obstacles that may arise along a project path and to provide clear paths to achieving the project's goal. He further encouraged the team to maximize the training to enhance productivity, especially in resource mobilization and better implementation of projects.

The Head of Hospitality and Travel Services (HOSTRAS), [Bridget Mangulama](#), highlighted the unit's activities, including the organizational structure, funding, and general management, which exposed them to the operations and demands of hospitality management.

APDC Economic Research and Resource Mobilization Manager, Amaka Chime, said APDC is an organization focused on nurturing business ideas and building capacity in potential young entrepreneurs in various aspects of the agro-industry and the creative arts to create employment and improve livelihoods.

Chime commended IITA for its notable successes recorded in the past five decades. The team appreciated IITA for sharing its vast wealth of experience during the training. *Contributed by: Omolola Dare and Folake Oduntan*



APDC trainees, Adannaya Okpara (left) and Amaka Chime (right) learning about HOSTRAS activities with Resident Manager Bridget Mangulama (center).

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 or Katherine Lopez (k.lopez@cgiar.org) and Uzoma Agha (u.gha@cgiar.org).

