



# IITA

## Youth Agripreneurs

*Agriculture is the future*

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## Youths are drivers of change in agriculture, says AfDB President



IYA representative-DR Congo Noel Mulingaya (sitting-left) while speaking on the prospects of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs Program during one of the panel sessions at the conference

The President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina has identified the IITA Youth Agripreneur's model as a scalable approach towards transforming Africa's agriculture.

The President stated this during a conference on Africa's Agriculture Transformation organized by the AfDB in collaboration with the Senegalese government and the African Union (AU).

The conference, which was held at the Abdou Diouf International Conference Center in Dakar, Senegal, from 21-23 October, was aimed at strategizing and forging alliances with African governments, financial institutions and other stakeholders on how to unlock Africa's potential in order to eliminate poverty and reposition Africa's place to feed the rest of the world.

The event was part of AfDB's action plan on how to transform Africa's rural communities into thriving hubs for food, fiber, feed production and processing through an increase in agricultural productivity, production and linkage to domestic and foreign market. The plan is to eradicate poverty and improve livelihoods with increased incomes from agricultural activities through massive creation of small and medium scale agricultural enterprises for youths and women in Africa.

In view of this, the AfDB will be supporting countries like Nigeria, Cameroon, DR Congo, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique, amongst others to create 28 million agribusiness jobs using the IYA model.

During his remarks, the President of Dr Adesina spoke about the potential of Africa and emphasized that unless Africa embarks on substantial agricultural transformation initiatives, it would be difficult for the continent to break the chain of poverty.

"We all know and believe that Africa has potential due to the natural endowments but Africa will not feed on potential but



AfDB-President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina delivering his speech at the conference

on food. An example of this is cocoa. Africa exports cocoa very cheaply but surprisingly, we import chocolate expensively," he said.

He added that this was the right time for Africa to act. "China did it in 10 years, we as a continent can do it in less than that, and we can only do that if we involve the youth, women, local farmers, financial institutions, local governments, private sector partnerships, and other development partners to uplift Africa," he added.

In line with this, Dr Adesina further announced that youths would be supported to become gainfully engaged in agriculture through the ENABLE YOUTH program. The program, which is to be conducted by the AfDB in collaboration with IITA using the IYA model will exploit the potential of the youth in agriculture through mindset change, the use of ICTs in agriculture, and rural youth involvement to reduce rural-urban migration.

During a ministerial panel and a work stream session on youth in agribusiness, the Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga spoke about the rationale behind driving a youth-led initiative using IYA as a model. Representatives of IYA from Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Evelyn Ohanwusi and Noel Mulingaya spoke on the opportunities, challenges and prospects of the IYA .

Dr Adesina said the IYA model would be adopted and scaled out to other countries in Africa.

At the end of the conference, stakeholders drew action plans to ensure that Africa regains its glory in the agricultural sector. Among the plans is the establishment of a \$300 million dollars facility to de-risk financing for women owned-businesses by commercial banks and microfinance institutions. The Bank will also develop Agribusiness Diaspora Bonds to securitize remittance flows for

investments in African agriculture and agribusiness; it will accelerate financing to the agriculture and agribusiness sector through private equity funds; and it will leverage sovereign wealth funds and pension funds to support the long-term financing needs of the agricultural sector, especially for critical infrastructure development. Finally, the Bank will scale up skills enhancement for youths in agriculture and establish an African Youth in Agriculture Financing Facility to support young commercial farmers and youths in agriculture.

Dr Adesina in his closing remarks at the conference reiterated that the above listed were bold decisions and nothing less than bold decisions and stressed that nothing less than bold decisions were needed to transform Africa's agricultural sector and unlock its huge potential. He also stated that all delegates must leave Dakar strongly committed to accelerate implementation of actions on these areas which must be acted upon with a sense of urgency.

## Dr Sanginga champions the cause of youth-in-agriculture in Africa



Debaters at the summit; IITA DG, Dr Nteranya Sanginga (L) with a Research Fellow from ILRI, and James Sumberg (R)

Agriculture remains the largest employer of any sector in the economy of most African countries. In view of this, the transformation of the agricultural sector in Africa holds tremendous promise for increased economic growth and creation of employment opportunities for the continent's young people.

Against this background, the MasterCard Foundation organized a two-day summit tagged 'Young Africa Works,' on 29-30 October, at the Old Harbour Conference Centre, West Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa to bring together a community dedicated to finding solutions to youth unemployment in Africa. The summit was aimed at engaging young people, while ensuring that their voices, perspectives and ideas are heard.

During the summit, there were various sessions where issues relating to demand-driven skills in agriculture; agricultural finances and organization; and mixed livelihoods in agricultural value chains were discussed.

Highlights of the two-day event was a debate between two knowledgeable

scientists: Prof James Sumberg, a research fellow from the Institute of Development Studies; and Dr Nteranya Sanginga, the Director General of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

Arguing for the topic; 'Agriculture as a Sector of Economic Opportunity for Youth in sub-Saharan Africa,' Dr Sanginga emphasized that about 12 million youths seek to enter the continent's workforce but without success. He stated that although agriculture has lots of opportunities, youths were skeptical about the vast opportunities available due to lack of access to arable land, credit facilities, practical skills, access to market and other core essentials for succeeding in agribusiness.

Using the IITA Youth Agripreneurs IYA as an example, Dr Sanginga argued that with the right skills and support; young men and women could be productively engaged in agriculture.

"Given opportunities and incentives, and mind-set change, rural youth can profitably be redirected toward

agribusiness, service provision and market-oriented agriculture, with huge impact upon their rural communities. Different models developed by IITA, AGRA, FARA, and CTA offer stepwise approaches to strengthening the skills of youth in agribusiness and are ripe for expansion and integration", he said.

Arguing against, Prof Sumberg stated that there should be provision for the research component in the concept of agriculture before implementation by youths.

At the end of the debate, there were series of questions and answers both from the panelists and the audience. The final voting from the audience resolved the debate fairly as 23 votes were casted in support of Dr Sanginga and 18 persons voted against the notion that 'agriculture is a sector of opportunity for youth in sub-Saharan Africa'.



President and CEO - MasterCard Foundation, Reeta Roy (M) with IYA members; Ibironke Ifedayo (L) and Asaju Oyindamola (R)



# The Green Wealth Agripreneurs

## The new birth



The Green Wealth Agripreneurs with the IITA DG, Dr Nteranya Sanginga (sitting-3rd from left) and some management staff of IITA

On May 25 2015, a new team of agripreneurs which will serve as Team B of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) was established.

The new agripreneurs known as the Green Wealth Agripreneurs were selected after a 3-day workshop organized by IYA for the 2015 National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in IITA.

The Green Wealth Agripreneurs who are the incubatees of IYA will undergo training with IYA for eighteen months after which they will develop a convincing business plan that will enable them have access to a loan to establish their own agribusiness enterprise.

This effort is part of IYA's goal to re-orient youths towards more productive engagements in agriculture through expanded opportunities, market oriented agriculture and service provision.

During the workshop, the youth corps were taken through series of activities, values, and the core techniques involved in agribusiness.

With over 80 participants who attended the workshop and indicated interest in the program, 30 of them were selected after series of interviews and screening. The 30 who were chosen based on merit are currently making use of the old IYA office at the FAO yard in the International

Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). The Green Wealth Agripreneurs, fully resumed operations in June and have started trying their hands on value addition of some of the staple crops after embarking on various educational visits to some farms and agribusiness enterprise within the South West region of Nigeria.

Among the value added products being developed by the Green Wealth Agripreneurs is *Sneh Balls* which is a snack made from soybean and coated with high quality cassava flour. The product which was launched on 19 August is currently going through series of palatability tests to make it acceptable in the Nigerian market. There are prospects of exporting the product outside the country as it is another substitute for peanut.

Using the Youth Agripreneur Groups (YAG) guidelines, the incubatees will receive both classroom and practical trainings on the mandate crops of the IITA by the capacity building arm of IYA within the stipulated time of their incubation.

The YAG guideline is a document written and compiled by Dr Paul Wommer and members of the Capacity Building unit of IYA to serve as an operational guide for the incubatees. With the YAG guideline, the incubatees during an initial 3 months will begin training on agribusiness and

incubation. Between the 4th to 6th months, the incubatees will initiate enterprises on modern farming and marketing. From the 6th to 9th month of incubation, the value addition enterprise and youth outreach programme will be initiated. Starting from the 10th – 15th month, experiential learning across core enterprises conducted with rotational responsibilities and tasks will begin. The period will also experience the beginning of business plans.

During the 16th – 18th month, it is expected that the business plans and loans should have been completed. At this point, the incubatees should have been able to map out a clear definition of their business enterprise. This is the point where incentives will be given for business startups.

The Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga while advising the new group, talked about the opportunities available for the youth across the agriculture value chain. He enjoined them to embrace agriculture as a business and bring in innovative ideas that would lead to the establishment of more agribusiness enterprises.



# Meet the Green Wealth Agripreneurs

## ADUNOYE OLUYEMI VICTORY

I studied Crop Production and Protection from Obafemi Awolowo University, and I was posted to IITA where I served at Genetic Resource Center (GRC). I



believe agriculture in Nigeria can be better than where it is presently. I believe being in this system will provide the right exposure and experience needed in my field and even beyond it. I aspire to be one of the top agripreneurs Nigeria has ever produced.

country. I see this IYA program as a platform for me to be fully equipped with the knowledge, expertise and experience needed to manage and sustain an agribusiness venture, thereby creating an avenue to also empower local women and youths in general.

## CHIANU ANDREW CHIDIEBERE

I studied Agric Economics and Extension from Enugu State University of Science and Technology. I



was posted to IITA for my NYSC where I worked with the Social Economics Unit. The program will equip me with the necessary skills to becoming a successful agripreneur and being at the forefront of agricultural development.

IITA, Ibadan. Agriculture is a sector that will always remain relevant because we eat every day. By joining the program, I hope to build my capacity in every area of agribusiness.

## OGINNI YETUNDE ODUNAYO

I studied Agricultural Extension and Rural Development from Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, and



served at the Cassava Weed Science Unit of IITA. The opportunity of being part of the Green Wealth Agripreneurs (GWA) has presented taking on the challenge to unlearn what I knew, and re-learn how agriculture must be practiced and explored as a business. It is my Dream to become an accomplished agripreneur, playing basic role in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by creating Jobs, wealth, and healthy affordable farm produce.

## AZUNNAYA VICTOR IFEANYICHUKWU

I am a graduate of Food Science and Technology from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. I worked with High Quality Cassava Flour



Value Chain Project unit during my one year national service at IITA. I joined the IYA program because it will help me in achieving the dream of becoming a tool for advocacy for youth in agriculture, and also owning my agribusiness venture.

## DANIYAN OLUWAFUNMILAYO

I studied English Language at the University of Ilorin. I was posted to IITA where I worked with the Community Resource Center Unit. This is a rare opportunity for



youths and for me as a person, and I hope to make the best use of it.

## OBAILA TIMI ABRAHAM

I am a graduate of Agricultural Economics and Rural sociology from Niger Delta University. I was posted to IITA where I served with the



EDIT Project (JIRCAS). Agriculture has never been a dream course right from childhood due to the myopic view and mindset we heard about it. Green Wealth Agripreneurs has changed this mindset and enlightened me that agriculture has a lot of entry points and hidden treasures that are unknown to many.

## ADEDIGBA ABISOLA TEMILADE

I'm a graduate of Law from the University of Ibadan and the Nigerian Law School. I worked in the Project Administration Office of IITA, Ibadan. I look forward to getting a hands-on experience in agribusiness and at the same time, fine-tuning my interest in Agricultural and Food Law.



## HASSAN HALIMOT OMOTOKE

I am an Electronics/ Electrical Engineer, and attended Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) Ogbomoso, Oyo State. I worked with the Supply Chain and the Telecommunication/ICT Units of IITA. I am proud to be part of the initiative, which is to mitigate unemployment, hunger and poverty in Africa.



## ONI WAHEED

I am a graduate of Water Resources Management from Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State. I worked



with the EDIT Project (JIRCAS) unit of IITA during my National Youth Service Program. Agriculture has been something of inheritance with lots of unpleasant experiences especially in areas of marketing and post harvest

## ADIGUN MODINAT ADENIKE

I am a graduate of Agronomy from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso. I worked with the Agronomy unit of IITA, Ibadan during my NYSC program. Being an agronomist has really exposed me to the great impact agriculture can play in sustainable development of any



## OKUNLOLA FESTUS OLUWADAMISI

I am a graduate of Plant Breeding and Seed Technology from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. I worked with the Cassava Unit of



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handling. After attending series of workshops, seminars and trainings organized by IYA, I got motivated and challenged to be part of the world changers in agriculture. I really appreciate the relentless efforts and the interest of Dr Nteranya Sanginga in seeing the youth maximising their potentials through agriculture.

**OGUNWOLE OMOTOLA DORCAS**

I am a graduate of Agriculture from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. I served at the Banana and Plantain unit (IITA). I see agriculture as a key player in the



economy and my passion for agriculture grew after this discovery. The drive to be my boss and an employer of labour is another fascinating thing about agribusiness though it's dirty, the cash is cool. I see myself owning one of the biggest agro-processing factories in the next few years.

**MUSTAPHA ISMAIL ADEMOLA**

I am a graduate of Statistics from the Ekiti State University (EKSU). I was posted to IITA during my National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) where I worked at the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit.



After my NYSC, I participated in a 3-day entrepreneurial workshop on agribusiness and production techniques organised by IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA). I joined the program in July, 2015 and has since been exposed to a wide range of opportunities inherent in agribusiness. My dream job is to establish an organization that believes in youth of diverse backgrounds.

**OJERINDE HAMMED ADEMOLA**

I am a graduate of Purchasing and Supply from The Polytechnic Ibadan, Oyo state. I was posted to IITA during my NYSC where I served at Supply Chain Unit (SCU). I was inspired to embrace agriculture as a business



through the speech of the AfDB President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina. But this further grew after attending the three-day entrepreneurial workshop on agribusiness, production techniques, and processing conducted by (IYA). I was inspired seeing other youths venture into agriculture.

**OJONIYI OLADROYIN**

I am a graduate of Animal Nutrition from Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta. I served with the International Livestock Research



Institute (ILRI). I want to be fully equipped with all agricultural practices, product advertisements, value added marketing strategies and sales of finished product.

**ICHEKU OKWURUMEYA**

I am a graduate of Sociology from Covenant University. I served with the Cassava Transformation Agenda (CTA), IITA, Ibadan. My interest in GWA



is to be a part of the agribusiness team and be financially independent. I hope to be equipped with entrepreneurship skills needed for maximum success in agribusiness.

**OLADOKUN IBUKUNOLUWA OLUFUNMI**

I am a graduate of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development from the University of Ibadan. I had my NYSC at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) under the Cassava Weed Management unit.



It used to be "Agriculture is the future" now it's glaring that the "future" has come to stare us right in the face. Thus, it becomes imperative as a youth to actively participate in this course of eradicating hunger, unemployment and poverty using agriculture. I am very privileged to be part of this revolution and hope to achieve these and much more through the GWA platform.

**ONI HAMMED ADEDAPO**

I am a graduate of Plant Breeding and Seed Technology from Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta. I served with



the Cassava Breeding unit, IITA. This golden opportunity to pass through IYA incubation will make my dream of becoming one of the foremost successful agripreneurs a reality.

**ONYENDI CHITURU NGOZI**

I am a graduate of Agricultural Economics from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Abia State. I was posted to IITA where I



served with the Cassava Transformation Agenda (CTA). I am glad to be part of the young agripreneurs who will successfully change the orientation of youths, rural farmers and the government about agriculture through value addition.

**OLUWASEUN DEBORAH ADEDEJI**

I am a graduate of Agricultural Economics and Extension from Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA), Ondo State. I did my Industrial



Training (IT) with the Cassava Breeding unit of IITA and my NYSC with the Cassava Transformation Agenda (CTA) project also in IITA.

The call to join the agripreneurs was good and timely so I responded gladly to it. We are in the era where the nation and Africa at large is falling back to agriculture as a means to sustain the economy. I am happy to be a part of the movement. Big thanks to the Director General, Dr Nteranya Sanginga for believing in us.

**SESUGH TERVER BENJAMIN**

I studied accountancy at the Benue State University and served with the Cassava



Transformation Agenda (CTA) unit of IITA. I am from Benue State and coming from a state where agriculture is practiced, I was very excited and motivated after a workshop organised by IYA which changed my perception about agriculture. I have learnt I can practice it as a very profitable business. Being part of this programme, I have a very positive feeling about it, because it has not only proved the fact that wealth emanates from the soil, but also undoubtedly promises a bright future for the youths of Nigeria.

**TINUOLA ADEDOKUN**

I studied Accounting at the Osun State University, Osogbo. I was posted to IITA where I worked in the Supply Chain Unit. I participated in



the 3-day entrepreneurial workshop on agribusiness, production technique and processing organized by the (IYA) which opened my eyes to a lot of benefits in agriculture. It is a great privilege to be part of this wonderful group (Green Wealth Agripreneurs). It has given me the opportunity to diversify and appreciate how profitable agribusiness can be.

**ADEOLUWA ADURAGBA TITILAYO**

I studied French at the Ekiti State University (EKSU). I served with the Cassava Weed Management Project (CWMP) of the International Institute of Tropical



Agriculture (IITA) in obedience to the clarion call of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

I seek to expand my knowledge horizon, while I bridge the language barrier between the youth agripreneurs and the Francophone agriculturists with my translation experience and lots more.

**VERONICA MAGAJI**

I graduated from Federal University of Technology Yola, with a degree in Agricultural Economics and Extension.

Agriculture is and will continue to be the world's source of food production and a strong source of raw materials for a lot of industries. If youths relent or are not encouraged to



go into agriculture, what do we expect of the future? I see agriculture as a great gift to mankind but serious efforts have not been put in place to extend our innovations, discoveries, inventions to the farmers so as to boost yield and keep our industries functioning.

**YUSUF ISMAIL BABATUNDE**

I studied Agriculture and Bio-resource engineering at the Federal University of Technology, Minna. I was posted to Oyo State for my NYSC



and my place of primary assignment was IITA Ibadan. I served in HarvestPlus for the remaining 11 months of my service year.

I joined the program Green Wealth Agripreneur because it basically deals with youth from diverse disciplines synergising to achieve great goals in agriculture. From the program, I want to learn how to be self reliant, agribusiness inclined, get connected with technical advisers, and improve my dexterity technology wise in the agricultural sector.

**OYENIYI OYELEKAN**

I studied Economics at Bowen University. I was posted to IITA where I answered my one year national call to service at the HOTCAT unit.



I strongly believe that as long as this drive for development in agriculture continues, problems of poverty, unemployment and income inequality will be addressed.

The Nigerian economy will be better for it. I am here to develop entrepreneurial skills and enjoy the benefits of teamwork.

**ADEDEJI LUKMAN IFEDOLAPO**

I graduated from Federal University of Technology Minna Niger State, with a degree in Mathematics and Computer Science. I was posted to IITA for my NYSC,



where I served with the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (M&E) for a year. I got interested in IYA after the 3-day training that was held at IITA. I was able to see agriculture as not just for people in the rural areas but as a business; a way of reducing unemployment and poverty. At the end of this program, I hope to have a broad knowledge in setting up agribusiness enterprises so as to employ people (reduce unemployment) and at the same time reduce poverty.

**OYEBAMIJI OLUWAFEMI TEMIDAYO**

I am a graduate of Plant Breeding and Seed Technology from Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Ogun state, Nigeria. I was posted to IITA



Ibadan where I served with the Cassava Breeding Unit while observing my one year national call to service (NYSC). The youths are a strategic tool in the agriculture revolution currently on-going in Africa. I see a chance to unlock and tap into the riches in agriculture. I am convinced that this program will equip me with all the skills necessary to seize this opportunity.

**ADEWOLE ADEDAMOLA ELIZABETH**

I studied microbiology at Bowen University, Nigeria. I answered my national call to service at IITA's Business Incubation Platform (BIP)



where I worked with the Nodumax Unit. I believe this agripreneurs program will broaden my knowledge in agriculture and the challenges in it, in order to know the appropriate research to carry out in agribusiness. It will also help me with skills to influence youths by mentoring them on the great benefits of agriculture to the world.

# IYA premieres debate on agriculture



IYA debaters; Ibironke Ifedayo (L), and Osaaju Oyindamola (R)

Prior to the debate between the Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga; and Prof James Sumberg, a Research Fellow with the Institute of Development Studies; the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) organized a debate to express the youth's view on the topic; "Agriculture is a Sector of Economic Opportunity for Youth in sub-Saharan Africa."

The debate, which was first of the kind in the history of IITA, was aimed at enabling youths express their views on the topic to be debated by Dr Sanginga and Prof Sumberg at the summit.

The debaters, Ogunwole Dorcas, Oni Waheed, Ibironke Ifedayo and Asaaju Oyindamola who were selected from the GreenWealth Agripreneurs and IITA Youth Agripreneurs argued extensively for and against the topic.

Moderated by Dr Eric Koper, the debaters during the session made presentations showing statistics to support their arguments for and against the topic.

During her presentation, Dorcas who spoke in support of the topic stated that about 20 million youths enter the labor market in Africa yearly. She stressed that

the agricultural sector is the only sector which has the capacity to absorb the large number of unemployed youth due to the various opportunities which are available along the agriculture value chain. She added that the aging population of the farmers in Africa is another reason why youths should be given the chance to explore and bring

innovative ideas that would change the face of agriculture.

Speaking against the topic, Waheed stressed that youths are impatient and are not likely to have the ability to manage the risks involved in agriculture. The risks highlighted during his presentation include drought and flood, disease and pest, slow returns on investment and unfavorable government policies.

Using the IYA's case as an example, Oyindamola who also spoke in support of the topic said, if youths were given the necessary support and training with a change in mindset, they could earn a living in agriculture and increase their income from zero dollars to 500 dollars per month. While adding that other sectors of the economy also needed agriculture to survive.

On his part, Ifedayo who argued against the topic said attitude change in youth is not measurable. He argued that, youths are active, dynamic and vibrant while agriculture according to him is passive, static and uninteresting.

At the end of the debate, participants voted in support of agriculture being a sector of economic opportunity for youth in sub-Saharan Africa.



A cross-section of the participants casting votes during the debate

## Agripreneurs promote products at HarvestPlus food fair

HarvestPlus Nigeria organized the first-ever Nutritious Food Fair in Nigeria, on 4-5 November 2015 at the IITA station in Kubwa, Abuja. Tagged; 'Closing the Nutrition Gap: Prospects for Bio-fortified Food', the food fair was aimed at creating

awareness and stimulating the demand for nutritious food. The Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Yemi Osinbajo who was represented by Arch Sunday Echono stated that the government recognized the effort of

HarvestPlus and IITA in trying to address the issue of malnutrition in children and women. The Head of the IITA station in Abuja, Dr Gbassey Tarawali in his remarks during the opening ceremony, said, "IITA supports the vision of HarvestPlus to

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Akinsiku Damilola (L) showcases product to the Deputy Director (Gender and Youth), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Karima Babangida (R) at the stand of IITA Youth Agripreneurs during the exhibition

develop more nutritious food crops in order to foster healthy living and fight malnutrition in Africa."

Speaking on the activities and the progress recorded by HarvestPlus on bio-fortification in Nigeria, Country

Representative of HarvestPlus, Paul Ilona stated that the organization has reached out to over 1 million farmers in Nigeria.

He thanked IITA for supporting HarvestPlus in its bid to develop more nutritious varieties of staple food crops that provide higher amounts of vitamin A, iron, or zinc which he identified as most lacking in diets globally.

IITA Youth Agripreneurs from Ibadan and Abuja had the opportunity to display, create awareness, and market linkages for their various products which were on display at their exhibition stand during the food fair. Stakeholders in the agriculture sector who visited the agripreneurs' stand commended the youth for embracing agriculture as a business.

## IYA develops a new website

IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) has launched a new website with the vision to serve as an umbrella interaction platform for agripreneurs in other hubs. The website was created as a means to create visibility for their activities. The IITA Youth Agripreneurs designed the online platform to encourage positive perception about agriculture for the youth. The website serves as a

place where youths can educate donors, investors, government, and farmers about the investment opportunities



For more, visit the IYA website: [www.youthagripreneurs.org](http://www.youthagripreneurs.org)

available in agribusiness. Through this platform, detailed information about IYA and also success stories, results, impacts and lessons learnt during the years of operation would be shared. Publications and other educational materials on agriculture and agribusiness will be uploaded for easy access and download by members of the public. Consumers will also have the opportunity to buy IYA products on-line through the e-commerce platform that will be added to the website.

## Hire for Phenotyping



The DJI Inspire 1 drone

DJI Inspire 1 and Phantom 2 vision + drone camera are two flying cameras recently acquired by the IITA Youth Agripreneurs. It is one of the latest technologies adopted by the youth for capturing aerial pictures and video documentation of field activities. The flying camera can take an aerial view picture and video of fields and also monitor the growth of crops especially

for research purposes. IITA Youth Agripreneurs offers this service at an affordable cost.

For enquiries on booking and rent contact:

Dare 07038587093

Evelyn 08054096374 OR

Email [iita-agripreneur@cgiar.org](mailto:iita-agripreneur@cgiar.org)

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