



# IITA

## Youth Agripreneurs

*Agriculture is the future*

August 2016 Special Issue



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My aspiration and dream is to see the next generation of billionaires in Africa emanating from IITA Youth Agripreneurs and that would happen in few months' time. ”

## African countries rally to participate in ENABLE Youth Program



L-R Dr Chiji Ojukwu, Dr Ben Kanu and Dr Alfred Dixon at the interactive session with the youth at the Agriserve building

The Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industries Department of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Chiji Ojukwu on Tuesday, 9 August 2016,

assured the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) of his support in ensuring that the youths become successful agripreneurs who would establish an independent

agribusiness enterprise under the ENABLE Youth Program.

Dr Ojukwu who stated this during an interactive session with the youth at the Agriserve building, IITA Headquarters in Ibadan, Nigeria said the ENABLE Youth Program which had become a common-phrase among the agricultural stakeholders in Africa emanated from the proposal written by IITA through the IITA Youth Agripreneurs model.

He said the model, which has been adopted by AfDB to design the ENABLE Youth Program experienced a lot of progress as 31 African countries including Nigeria, have indicated interest to participate in the program.

Speaking on the ENABLE Youth Nigeria program, Dr Ojukwu added that Nigeria has requested for a loan of \$300 million for the implementation of the program in 37 states in the country. He said the request would be presented before

AfDB's board for approval between October and November this year.

Through the program, 1,000 youths would be trained in each state for a specified period of time after which they will write a bankable business plan to apply for a loan to fund their identified agribusiness enterprise.

"As you know, agriculture is very vast and it has lot of value chains. It is not compulsory you venture into production. But whatever agribusiness enterprise you want to venture into, you have the opportunity of getting a minimum of about \$50,000 as an individual or a

group. What I want you to know is that it is a loan and not a grant" he said.

He however urged the youth to reflect on the opportunities available for them under the ENABLE Youth Program. The program according to him would give them the opportunity of showcasing the skills acquired in IITA.

Dr Ben Kanu, a lead agriculture expert for Agriculture and Agro-industry department in AfDB who was also present during the interactive session could not hide his excitement with the numerous achievements of the youths.

"The future of Africa lies in these young ones. They are brave. I am thrilled and impressed by what you are doing. I congratulate you Dr Sanginga for championing this cause" he said.

He urged other institutions to emulate IITA in grooming young agripreneurs and farmers who will take over from the ageing farmers in Africa.

Dr Ben was taken on a tour round the facilities of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs.



*IITA Youth Agripreneurs and some IITA management staff with AfDB officials.*



*Dr Ojukwu, (4th from right), Dr Sanginga and members of IYA in Ibadan*



*Dr Ojukwu and Dr Sanginga with members of GreenWealth Agripreneurs in Ibadan*



*Dr Ojukwu and Dr Sanginga with Green Magic Agripreneurs*



*Dr Ben Kanu having a taste of some IYA products during an exhibition at the processing center*

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