

## Background and Creation of IITA Youth Agripreneurs

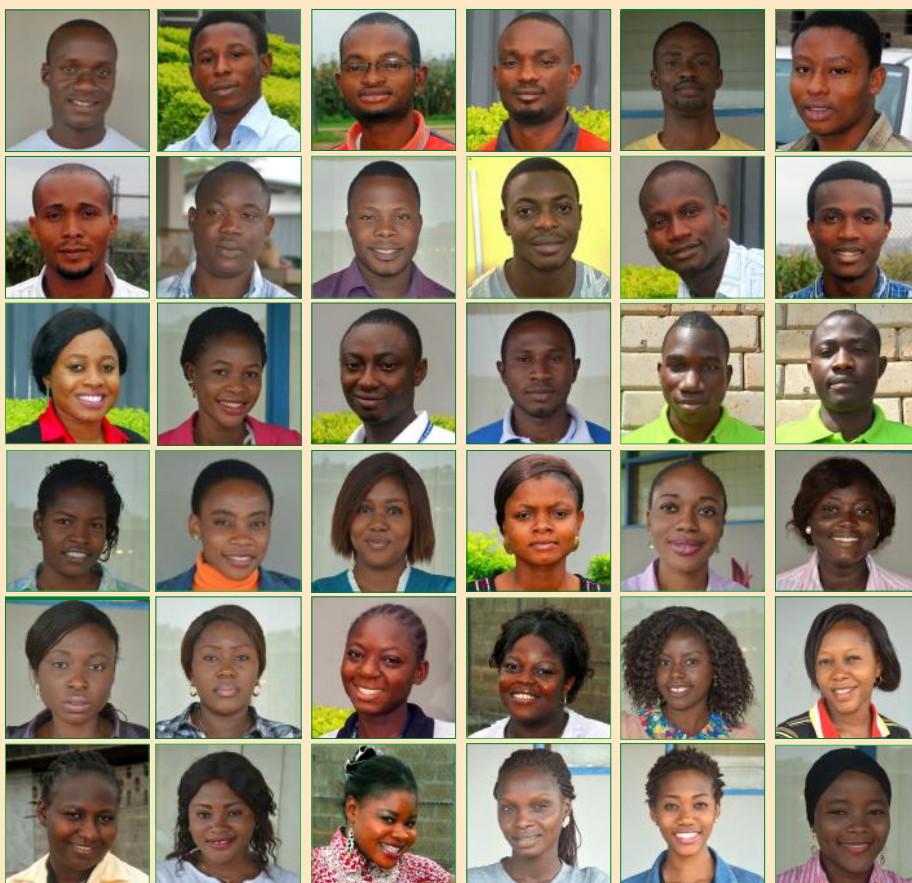
Agriculture is an essential driver of youth employment and empowerment and offers unique opportunities to create jobs and increase skills for young people in sub-Saharan Africa. IITA, under the leadership of Director General Dr Nteranya Sanginga, created the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) in August 2012.



DR Sanginga , IITA DG (right middle) with the Agripreneurs in 2012



The goal of IYA is to engage youth in productive, market-oriented agriculture, agribusiness, and service provision. IYA directly engages youth to use linkages along the value chains from production to processing, marketing, and ultimately to industrial and domestic consumption.



IYA members come from various disciplines such as History, Computer Science, Quantity Surveying, Statistics, Biochemistry, Mass Media, Economics, Soil Science, Agronomy, and Crop Breeding. The group began with a reorientation to prompt a change in their mindset about agriculture.

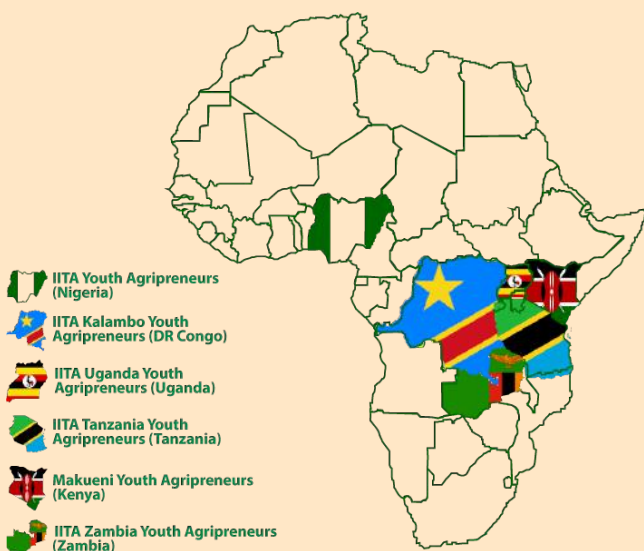
Despite limited knowledge of agriculture and agribusiness at the commencement of the program, the youth were able to gather great understanding and knowledge of "agriprenurship" through training both on and off the field.

IYA's initial focus was production and distribution of quality seeds and has expanded to value addition leading to production of cassava bread, soymilk, and tidbit snacks, service delivery in capacity building and consultancy. The group also diversified into vegetable production, catfish farming, and pig raising for low-fat pork.

**Multi disciplinary team**

Computer science    Biology    Accountancy    Biochemistry    Economics    Agronomy  
 Business Administration    Botany    Statistics    Agricultural Economics and Extension services  
 Animal breeding and Genetics    Crop production  
 Mass Communication    Quantity Surveying    History    Logistics Management and Transport

The multi disciplinary team



- IITA Youth Agripreneurs (Nigeria)
- IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs (DR Congo)
- IITA Uganda Youth Agripreneurs (Uganda)
- IITA Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs (Tanzania)
- Makueni Youth Agripreneurs (Kenya)
- IITA Zambia Youth Agripreneurs (Zambia)

**Where we Are**



On-field training of the youth

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The IITA Youth Agripreneurs have been able to set up a structured organization to respond to its portfolio of activities, whilst maintaining a gender-balanced system. IITA Youth Agripreneurs have further embarked on equipping other youth with the relevant skills – and mindset – to take agriculture as a business.

## Photo Gallery on IYA's Activities



Agripreneurs baking cassava bread



IITA Youth Agripreneurs processing soymilk



An Agripreneur with cassava tubers harvested one of IYA's cassava fields



Agripreneurs standing in front of harvested bags of maize and soybean



An Agripreneur tending to pigs



An Agripreneur shows off a catfish caught from the Agripreneurs' pond

## Photo Gallery on IYA's Activities



Right-Left (sitting): DG-Biodiversity International, Dr Ann Tutwiller; CGIAR Consortium CEO, Dr Frank Rijsberman; IITA Board member, Prof Roel Merckx; IWMI's Africa Director, Timothy Williams; and DG-IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanganya, in the office of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs



AfDB president, Dr Akinwumi Adesina with the Agripreneurs at the IYA fish pond



Right-Left, Consortium CEO, Dr Frank Rijsberman, IITA Board Member Prof. Roel Merckx looking at the IYA soymilk



IFAD President, Dr Kanayo Nwanze at the Agripreneurs' screenhouse used for producing plantain suckers



An aerial view of the Agripreneurs working on the vegetable field captured with a sophisticated Dji Drone Camera (Phantom 2+)