

# IITA Youth Agripreneurs at a glance



2012 - 2017

This picture collection tells the story of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs from inception.

# Sowing the Seed

In August 2012, IITA gathered a team of young unemployed graduates and challenged them to explore the opportunities inherent in agriculture. The graduates who were from diverse academic backgrounds were trained, mentored and coached by IITA and other partners. These have however, evolved and given birth to a movement changing the narrative about agriculture.



Dr Kanayo Nwanze admonishing a serving youth corps member to embrace agriculture as a viable means of employment.



Dr Kanayo Nwanze planting the “Agripreneurs” seed in August 2012.



The first generation of Agripreneurs during their National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme in IITA.

# Coaching and Mentoring

Considering the fact the youth are from diverse backgrounds, the need to train and expose them to the value chains in agriculture to stimulate their interest and change their perception about the sector became an important task. IITA championed this through educational visits to successful agribusiness enterprises, training, mentoring, and coaching. Through this, the youth were able to develop profitable agribusiness enterprises along the value chains they were trained on.



The Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, coaching the IITA Youth Agripreneurs.



Dr Sanginga on a monitoring visit to the first field of the youth in Olokoto, Ogbomosho in Oyo State.



The Agripreneurs being trained by IITA scientist, Amah Delphine on plantain/banana value chain.

# Enterprise Development

After going through experiential learning, the youth developed profitable agribusiness enterprises along the value chains of cassava, soybean, maize, plantain and banana, cowpea, fishery, vegetable, ICT, and mechanization.



# Enterprise Development - Fishery

After intensive training at Durante Fish Farm in Oyo, the fishery team started the business with four ponds. This has now expanded to 17 ponds with a production capacity of 150 tons per cycle.



The first visit of Dr Sanginga with the IYA fish team to Durante Fish Farm in Oyo in 2014.



The state-of-the art hatchery facility constructed for the production of fingerlings.



The team harvesting catfish for sale in one of the ponds.



The team sorting the fish to be stocked in the ponds.



A bird's-eye view of IYA fish ponds.

# Cassava Value Chain

Focusing on the production of quality planting material for farmers, the youth are into the production of cassava stems. They also produce cassava roots in various locations in Nigeria.



One of the cassava roots harvested from the cassava field.



Some harvested cassava roots ready for sale.



The cassava team also produce quality planting material for farmers.



Neatly peeled cassava roots to be processed into garri.

# Cereals and Legumes

Venturing into the production of seeds and grain for maize, soybean, and cowpea, Agripreneurs moved to the northern part of the country to establish large hectares of land for the production of these commodities.



The team in Mokwa, Niger State showcase the harvest from their field.



Agripreneurs taking data from the soybean field.



Agripreneurs with the bags of their first harvest of soybean and maize from the field in Mokwa, Niger State.

# Processing

The Processing team of the group add value to some commodities produced by the team. Adding value reduces postharvest losses and increases the income of the Agripreneurs.



The team adding value to fresh catfish through smoking using the smoking kiln.



An agripreneur baking bread with High Quality Cassava Flour.



IYA displaying some of its value-added products at an exhibition in Abuja.



# Mechanization and ICT



Agripreneurs in all the locations are ICT savvy. We make use of the latest technology in ensuring that agriculture is attractive and cool for young people.



We want to send hoes and cutlasses to the museum. We encourage the use of mechanization to reduce drudgery in agriculture.

# IYA Projects

While generating income from agricultural produce, the team also developed project proposals for multinational companies and organizations to train unemployed youth in agribusiness. Amongst such projects is Hello tractor, N2Africa, and CYAG. Hello Tractor is sponsored by USAID, N2Africa by the Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation, while CYAG is sponsored by Chevron Nigeria Limited.



# N2Africa-to-Borno Project

The project is targeted at engaging unemployed youth in Borno State in Agribusiness. IYA has recorded some business spin-offs under the project.



An Agripreneur facilitating classroom training for the youth in Borno State.



The Borno Youth being trained on machine fabrication.



Practical sessions for the trainees on fish farming.



Some of the beneficiaries of the training display their commodities for sale.



IYA (in green) with the first set of trainees under the N2Africa-to-Borno Youth Project.

# Chevron Project - CYAG

The Community Youth in Agribusiness (CYAG) Project is the first self-written proposal by IYA. It is a result of a public-private partnership to engage youth in Agriculture. The project started in 2016.



Agripreneurs with Mr Deji Hastrup, General Manager in charge of Policy (Chevron) during the launching of CYAG.



An Agripreneur facilitating classroom training for the first set of beneficiaries.



The first set of trainees of the project taking the Chevron staff on a tour of their enterprise during the evaluation visit of the team.



A group photograph of the first set of trainees under the project.

# Hello Tractor Project

The youth who are trained under this project are to develop business plans that will enable them to access loans for the purchase of the smart tractor for commercial use. The tractor has a GPS which connects the tractor operator to the farmers.



The Project Manager-(2nd from left) with partners of the project.



Classroom training for the beneficiaries of the project.



A practical session on the use of the smart tractor, Hello Tractor.



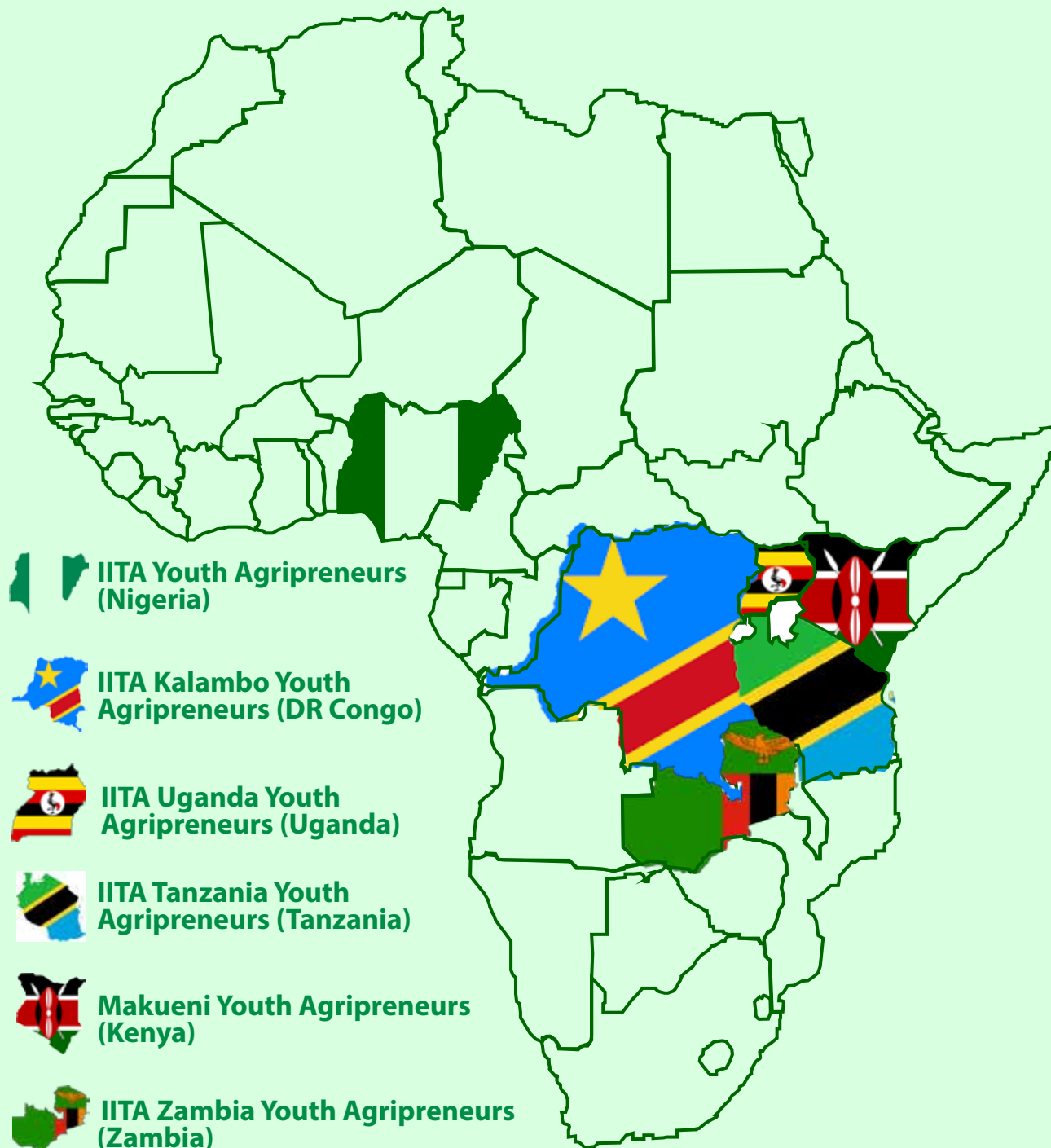
An Agripreneur facilitating a session on strategic marketing.



A group photograph of the first set of trainees under the project.

# IYA Locations

Expanding from its modest beginning into a force poised to empower youth and transform agriculture in other locations in Nigeria and across Africa, the model was replicated in Rivers, Kano, Imo States and Abuja, while countries like DR Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia also joined the list.



## 1st Generation of Agripreneurs

The multidisciplinary team was established in August 2012. The experience from the group was used in developing a series of strategies used in developing projects and programs for engaging youth in Agribusiness.



## 2nd Generation - Green Wealth Agripreneurs

This set was recruited in May 2015. They were trained by the first generation for a period of 18 months under the IYA incubation center. They have developed business plans and have started their independent enterprises.



## 3rd Generation - Green Magic Agripreneurs

This group was recruited in April 2016 for the IYA incubation program. They learned and innovated to strengthen some of the enterprises developed by the first and second generation.



## IITA Youth Agripreneurs - Kano

The team in Kano were deployed from Ibadan in February 2016 to establish the youth-in-agribusiness movement in the North-West region of the country. The group produces sorghum, cowpea, and maize and also ventured into ram fattening.





# IITA Youth Agripreneurs - Abuja

IYA Abuja was established in 2014 to reach out to the youth, policy makers, and stakeholders in the North-Central region of the country. They produce sorghum, rice, maize, cassava, and fish. They also add value to some of the commodities.



The team in one of the fields in Nassarawa.



Some Agripreneurs with the harvested bags of sorghum.



A group photograph of the IYA team in Abuja.

# IITA Youth Agripreneurs - Onne

IYA Onne was established in 2016. The team was deployed to IITA station in Onne from Ibadan to develop profitable agribusiness enterprises that can be scaled-up to a commercial level and also plan and implement training programs for youth in the South-South region of Nigeria. Their activities cut across cassava, capacity development, fishery, livestock, plantain and banana.



The Onne team are well known for producing disease-free plantain and banana suckers for farmers. Using the macro-propagation technique, they have a constant supply to meet demand.



They are into poultry and egg production from 1500 capacity poultry.



The Onne team with the Dr Chiji Ojukwu, Director, African Development Bank.

# IITA Youth Agripreneurs - Imo

The Imo Agripreneurs was established in January 2017. The team was deployed from Ibadan to Owerri to establish profitable agribusiness enterprises and also give other young people the opportunity of tapping into the wealth in agriculture through capacity building. They discovered and renovated some abandoned facilities at the Imo State Polytechnic for poultry and fishery production. They are also making use of a 5000 m<sup>2</sup> greenhouse for vegetable production.



Agripreneurs in Imo with some seedlings to be transplanted into the greenhouse.



The Agripreneurs working in the greenhouse.



An intern trained on poultry production feeding the layer birds.



The Imo team with the Technical Adviser, Dr Paul Woomer.

# IITA Youth Agripreneurs - Kenya

The team in Kenya are known as the Kibwezi Hortipreneur Youth Group and was established in March 2015. They produce tomato in large quantities in a greenhouse and sell along the Mombasa corridor.



# Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs

This group was established in March 2014 in Dar es-Salaam. It developed enterprises along the value chains of cassava, maize, and soybean. The group is wellknown for the production of soy-yoghurt which is sold in stores in Tanzania.



# IITA Youth Agripreneurs - DR Congo

IITA Youth Agripreneurs-DR Congo was established in Kalambo, South-Kivu Province in November 2013. It's major enterprise includes production and export of High Quality Cassava Flour to nearby countries. The team makes use of 40 abandoned fish ponds in Lwiro and Nyakabera for fish production. IITA Youth Agripreneurs-DR Congo has been replicated in Kinshasa and Kisangani.



The DR Congo team packaging their High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF) for sale.



They also work with the local farmers for market linkages and distribution of new technologies.



A group photograph of the team in DR Congo.

# IITA Youth Agripreneurs - Uganda

The team in Uganda is known as the “WhatsApp” group. They devised an innovative means of eliminating middlemen in the sale of their vegetables through ICT. This innovation eliminated the problems faced by the youth whenever they take their produce to the market.



Some of the harvested vegetables ready for delivery.



A pictorial representation of how the team in Uganda sell their produce using ICT to eliminate middlemen.



A group photograph of the Uganda team.

# IYA Spin-offs



Frotchery foods, is a business owned by three young people trained under the IYA incubation center. They are part of the first spin-off from the group. The mini-factory which is situated in Ibadan adds value to catfish using the smoking kiln technology. IITA supported them with finance and will continue to monitor and mentor the young CEO as the business expands.



TOFAN foods is situated in Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State. The three-man team produces a crunchy snack-“Tidbit Delight” made from High Quality Cassava Flour and cowpea. Within a short period of operation, the product has penetrated the market in Ogun State and some major parts of Lagos State.

# YADI Conference - 2014

In May 2014, a conference known as "Youth in Agribusiness Development Initiative" (YADI) brought together stakeholders in the agricultural sector to address ways of engaging youth in agribusiness. The concept note that was developed during the workshop gave birth to the ENABLE Youth Program. Through the ENABLE Youth program, the IYA model will be outscaled to create jobs for over 8 million young people in Africa within a period of 5 years. ENABLE Youth is financed by the African Development Bank.



Cross-section of participants at YADI conference.

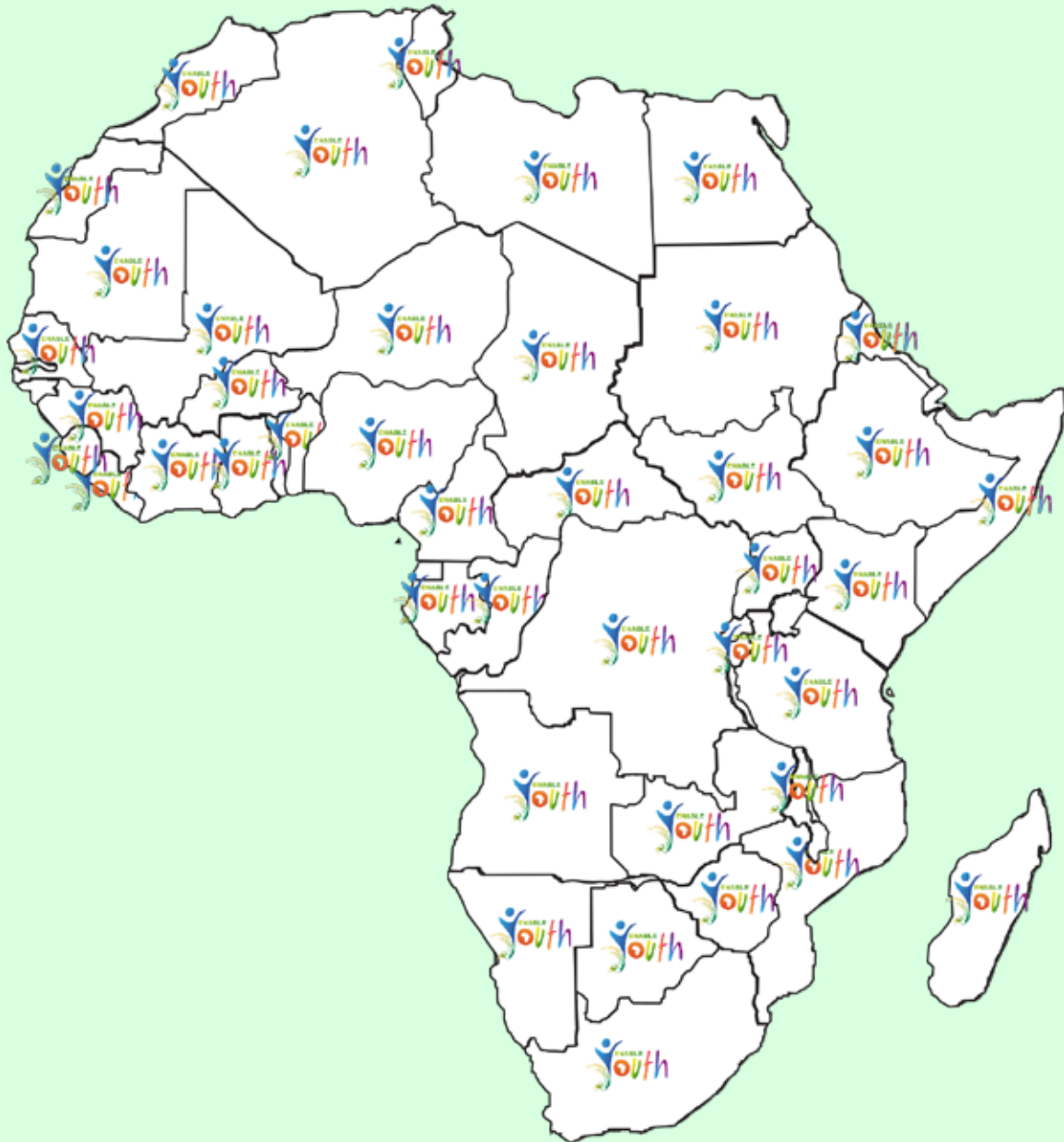


Dr Adesina with participants during the conference.



# The Roadmap

Over 30 countries have expressed interest in the program as stand-alone ENABLE Youth programs or a project component in an existing agricultural value chain.



# IYA @ 2

Wife of the Director General of IITA, Mrs Charlotte Sanginga celebrating with the youth on the 2nd anniversary of IYA in August 2014.



# IYA at Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library

Chief Olusegun Obasanjo addressing the youth during their visit to him in Abeokuta on 22 August 2014. The visit was to explore areas of partnership with the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library on youth empowerment, capacity development, and social awareness.



# A.A. Adesina Agripreneurs' Building

The A.A. Adesina Agripreneurs' Building is the first of its kind in the history of IITA. The Youth Training Center, which is named after Dr Akinwumi Adesina, is in recognition and preservation of his legacy and immense support to the youth in Africa. Using the building, the youth will train other African Youth and together they will unlock employment opportunities and "enable" the youth across the continent to drive Africa's development through agriculture.



