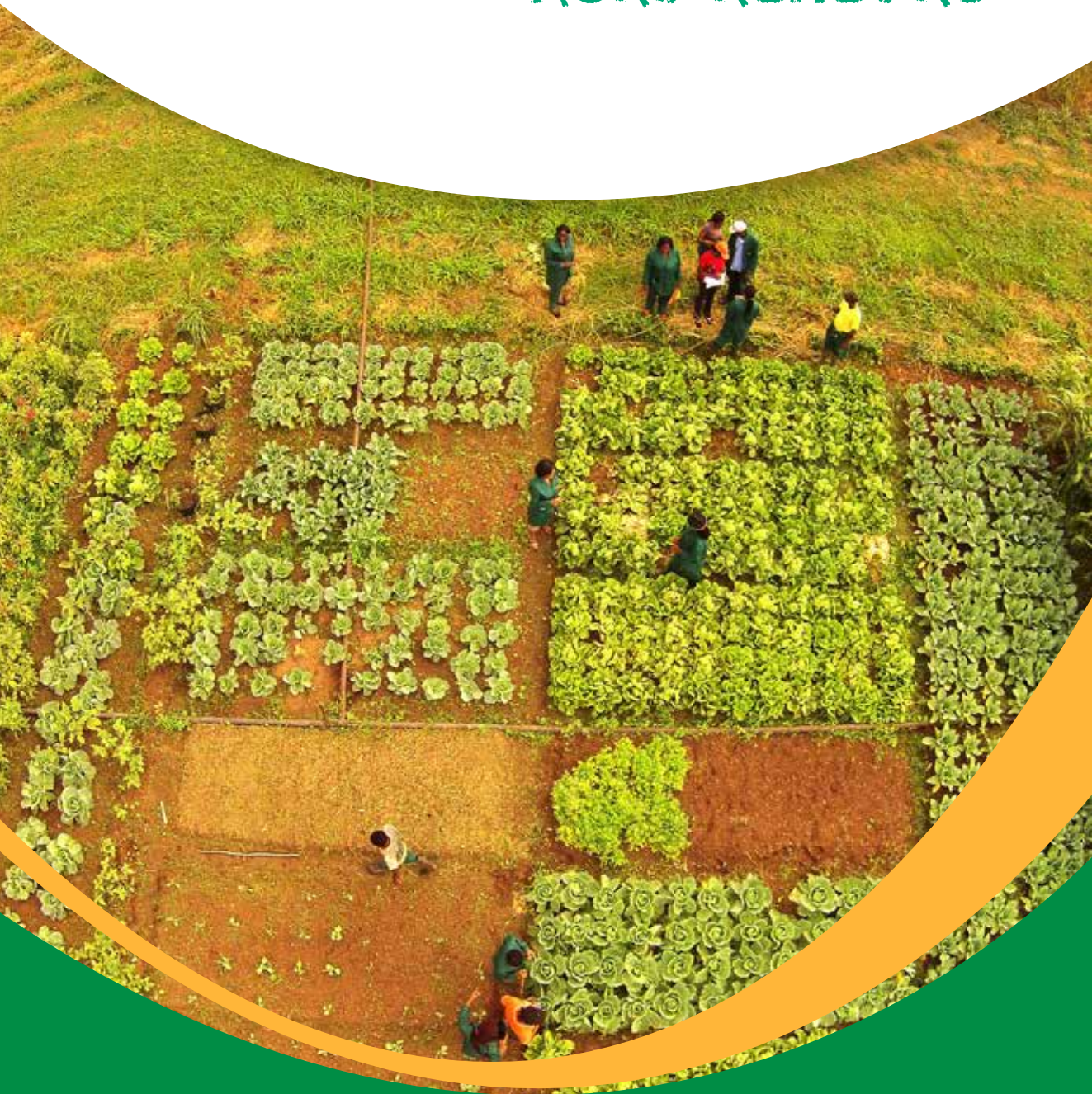


IITA YOUTH AGRIPRENEURS





Introduction

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) was established in August 2012 in IITA-Ibadan, Nigeria, by the Director General, Dr Nteranya Sanginga. IYA was created to serve as a model to encourage young people to go into agriculture and prove that the youth can succeed in the agricultural value chains and be directed towards market-oriented agriculture, agribusiness, and/or agro-service provision if given proper training, opportunities, and incentives.

The group comprises a budding team of 35 young professionals from diverse academic backgrounds including History, Computer Science, Building and Quantity Surveying, Statistics, Biochemistry, Mass Communication, Economics, Soil Science, Agronomy, and Plant Breeding, all aligning their efforts to bring about the much-awaited agricultural transformation in Africa. The group's strategy is to promote the growth of self-reliant, small-scale business models involving maize, soybean, cassava, plantain/banana, fruit and leafy vegetables, fish, and piggery value chains.

IYA has now spread Africa-wide with youth groups established in several locations within Nigeria the

Federal Capital Territory in Abuja and Borno State and other African countries like Kenya, DR Congo (Bukavu, Kinshasa, and Kisangani), Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

To fulfill its goal of reorienting rural youths towards more productive engagement in agriculture, IYA now runs an incubation center where young graduates who are interested in agriculture undergo training in agribusiness for a period of 18 months after which they develop a bankable business plan to venture into any chosen agribusiness enterprise. A group known as the Green Wealth Agripreneurs is the first set of participants undergoing this program.





Mission

Exploit the viable opportunities existing in the agricultural value chains to create wealth, achieve better income and financial independence for African youth.

Objectives

- Make agriculture attractive to young people
- Reorient youth towards undertaking successful careers in agriculture
- Build agricultural skills and link youth to sources of improved agricultural technologies



Key stakeholders and partners



- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
- Hello Tractor sponsored by (USAID)
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)
- Skretting/Durante Fish Industries
- Ekimiks Nigeria Limited
- Chevron Nigeria Limited
- Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library
- Taiyo Industry, Japan
- Dizengoff Nigeria/Balton CP



IYA units

Processing and marketing

The processing and marketing unit adds to the value of the primary agricultural produce of IITA mandate crops to increase the economic value of the commodity. This initiative also brands and promotes market access for all produce. Agripreneurs embark on aggressive marketing campaigns, surveys, and exhibitions to boost confidence and expansion, test for viability, and forge strategic alliances with existing and potential clients who are spread across Nigeria. Some of the produce includes Tidbit Delight, soymilk, smoked fish, Sneh balls, croquant, pastries, and high quality cassava flour (HQCF).





Capacity building

Capacity building has been identified as one of the bedrocks of sustaining youth engagement in agriculture. Through capacity building, IYA facilitates in-house training for its members to improve their skill sets and also that of other youth elsewhere. IYA has facilitated quite a number of training through various projects. Training covers aspects of agribusiness, farm mechanization, financial accounting, marketing, ICT, business plan development, and other topics.



Roots, tubers, and vegetable production

IYA produces stems and cuttings of improved cassava varieties for farmers. The organization promotes farm ventures in cassava, plantain, cauliflower, okra, sweet corn, pawpaw, lettuce, spinach, cucumber, watermelon, tomato, and green beans. The vegetables are produced all year round using the screen house technology. The IYA cassava fields are spread across Oyo, Kwara, Ekiti, and Ogun states in Nigeria. IYA aligns with key projects to cultivate hectares of land for the production of HQCF and improved planting materials.



Fisheries

IYA produces catfish for mass consumption. The fisheries group, which initially started with four earthen ponds, has expanded to meet the increase in demand. The group also has a state-of-the-art hatchery facility where fingerlings and fries are produced for fish farmers under hygienic conditions. The catfish and fingerlings are available all year round.



Livestock production

IYA, through its livestock production unit, produces low fat pork from the growers and weaners being raised as a start-up for the business. The low fat pork is sold by the kilo to interested clients at an affordable rate.



Cereals and legumes

IYA produces seed of improved varieties of maize, soybean, and cowpea. With its fields in Mokwa, Niger State; Zaria, Kaduna State; and Ibadan, Oyo State, the group cultivates large hectares of land yearly adopting an irrigation system to ensure productivity.

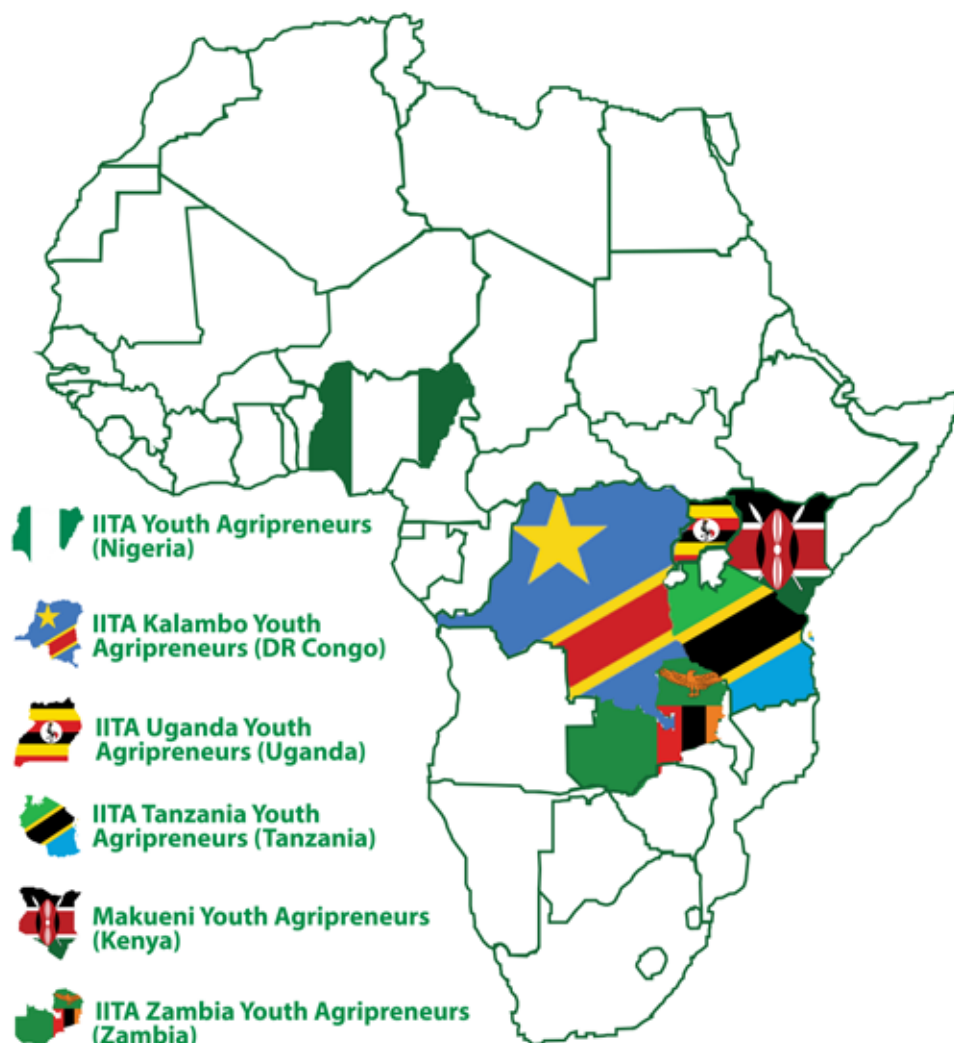


Communication, ICT and M&E

This group enhances and supports IYA's current and proposed project by managing its social media platforms, newsletter, audio visuals, display boards, and other materials to communicate the messages and achievements of the group to its stakeholders. All these are documented and monitored accurately for present and future use.

Where we are

After being tested in Ibadan, Nigeria, the IYA model is now being replicated in other parts of Nigeria, as well as DR Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. This has led to the formation of similar youth groups in these locations, and is spawning interest among various sectors of the country. Many local government and private organizations in Nigeria are now organizing youth groups using this same model.



IITA Youth Agripreneurs, Abuja (IYAA)

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs group in Abuja serves as a point of contact to reach out to the youth in the North-Central part of Nigeria. The group is into the production of rice, cassava, sorghum, peruvian beans, vegetable, and pro-vitamin A maize. The group is also now involved in catfish production with the construction of a 40 m by 20 m earthen fish pond.



IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs (IKYA), DR Congo



IKYA is the pioneer group in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Following its establishment in November 2013 as a youth-led venture in Bukavu town (South Kivu Province), IKYA initially engaged in beans, cassava, maize, and soybean production. In 2014, the group diversified into value addition through the processing of soybean and cassava-based products. So far, the group has developed 17 cassava- and 10 soybean-based products. The group is also into tilapia fish production.

Building on the successes of the IKYA, two other groups Kinshasa and Kisangani Youth Agripreneurs were established to serve Kinshasa City and Orientale Province, respectively.

IITA Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs (ITYA)

The Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs, formed in March 2014, is engaged in different agribusinesses ranging from the production and packaging of HQCF and the production of tomato using a greenhouse and irrigation. The group also supplies clean cassava planting materials and processes soybean into milk, yoghurt, and tofu. ITYA also provides weed control services to farmers using appropriate and safe herbicides, uses modern techniques (hermetic bags) for storing maize, and trains farmers to make high nutrient-dense foods from locally grown crops.



IITA Kenya Youth Agripreneur (Kibwezi Hortipreneur Youth Group-KHYG)

Established in March 2015, KHYG conducts irrigated vegetable farming at the University of Nairobi Dryland Station in Kibwezi, Makeni County. Using a 1700 m² greenhouse, the group grows mixed vegetables and has also started fish farming and fish feed production. The group makes good use of the Mombasa–Nairobi commercial corridor to sell its produce.

Uganda Youth Agripreneurs (UYA)

Officially launched in June 2015, UYA operates in different outfields producing vegetables and sweet potato. The group seeks to modernize production among affiliated youth groups in Uganda. UYA is the first Agripreneur group to adopt the use of an ICT-related tool in the sale of its produce.

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