

“Youth unemployment...one of the biggest challenges”



IITA DG, Dr Sanginga addressing youths in Ibadan

Among the challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa is the spiralling rate of unemployment among the growing youth population. Reports from the Africa

Economic Outlook indicate that 60% of the continent's unemployed are aged between 15 and 24 and more than half of these, many of them women, have given

up efforts to find work.

The situation is likely to worsen if nothing is done to halt the trend as the numbers are set to double by 2045. For Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan, "Youth unemployment in Nigeria is a critical national issue and is one of the biggest challenges." In Kenya, youth unemployment has reached crisis proportions with an estimated 64% of unemployed persons younger than 25 years old. The resigned idleness of rural youth is also in evidence in DR Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia where poor incentives exist to better one's life through hard work. A few hours of "routine" morning efforts in home food gardens are followed by aimless socializing in local canteens. To address this concern, IITA under the leadership of Dr Nteranya Sanginga has initiated a youth program as a model to address unemployment using agriculture as a tool. The plan is to encourage the youth to tap the many opportunities inherent in agriculture.

The project exposes young graduates to the different opportunities in agriculture and allows them to identify entry points in the agricultural value chains where they could play a role. At the core is capacity building for the young that propels independent thinking and engenders problem solving.

Agripreneurs trained on plantain/banana production

Members of the IITA Youth in Agriculture project have been trained on banana and plantain production. The training, which involved 11 members of the group, was held on 23 January, and cut across the value chain of banana/plantain with the following themes: Why invest in plantains/banana? Setting up plantain/banana macro-propagation and field cultivation, pests and diseases affecting the crop, and how to control them. Plantain (*Musa spp.*) are the green, starchy cousins of the banana. Unlike banana, plantains are not sweet and are eaten cooked, rather than raw. Originating in Southeast Asia, plantains are now grown in subtropical and tropical regions around the world.

The macro propagation of plantains/banana is a relatively easy technique that is carried out in a shed. It consists of generating suckers from clean planting material by removing the apical



Youths during banana/plantain training

dominance which will generate about 30-40 suckers between 3 months. These techniques are simple and therefore easy

to grasp, and cheap to establish with minimum investment in construction of propagators and weaning facilities.

“Put on your thinking caps”



IITA youths addressing FARA officials

The new Executive Director of the Forum for Agricultural Research for Africa (FARA), Dr Yemi Akinbamijo, has urged members of the IITA Youth project to harness the diversity of skills inherent among them for agricultural development.

He gave this counsel in Ibadan during his first official visit to IITA on 2 August 2013. Accompanied by other FARA executives: Dr Aggrey Agumya, Technical Adviser; Dr Ramadjita Tabo, Deputy

Executive Director; and Prof. Adewale Adekunle, Director of partnerships, the new FARA boss could not hide his excitement over the youth project.

He also urged the youth to always “put on their thinking caps” and judiciously utilize the services ICT renders. Prof. Adekunle in his remarks enjoined the Agripreneurs to channel much of their effort towards adding value to crops cultivated, thus diversifying their consumption forms. “It would be great

to find the foods we enjoyed in the villages, repackaged and available in stores and supermarkets,” he said.

The Youth made a presentation on: “Income Generation and Youth Employment,” and gave an overview of the objectives and current operations of the project.

In his closing remarks, the Executive Director congratulated the team for a great job, and reiterated the desire of FARA to work with them.

12 ha of maize seeds cultivated

To address the challenge of poor quality seeds, members of the IITA Youth in Agriculture have cultivated 12 hectares of improved maize



Youths on their maize farm

varieties. The cultivation of the maize came after the group got training on maize cultivation between January and February 2013. About 4 ha have been cultivated in IITA-Ibadan and another 8 ha in Ogbomoso. The training which was facilitated by Dr Sivestre Kaka Meseka covered all aspects of maize seed production from the preparation of land to marketing.

Youth concept excites top USAID officials



IITA youths and USAID officials

The Director, Office of Agricultural Research and Policy, Bureau for Food Security USAID, Dr Rob Bertram; and the Senior Agricultural Specialist, Economic Growth and Environment Office USAID Nigeria, Howard Batson, paid a 3-day courtesy visit to the institute between 14–16 July 2013. The delegation visited the Youth Agripreneurs office and listened

to presentations about the group’s history, achievements, plans, etc. Both were impressed with the Agripreneur concept and commended the IITA Management for the initiative. Howard wrote in the visitors’ log: “Great potential waiting to take off,” while Dr Bertram had this to say: “Very exciting to see young people engaged in agribusiness development.”

Cassava flour maker wants the Agripreneurs to 'have big dreams'



Thai Farms... Nigeria's biggest cassava flour maker

Thai Farm Nigeria Ltd, makers of cassava flour, has urged the IITA Agripreneurs to have a vision about investments in agriculture. The Chief Executive Officer/ Managing Director, Mr Louw Burger, gave the advice during their learning visit to the factory on 27 August 2013.

On the team also were Malawian cassava processors and the IITA Communication Officer, Mr. Godwin Atser.

In his presentation, Mr Burger encouraged the team to have big dreams, stating that the challenges faced while carrying out small projects are the same as those encountered in bigger undertakings.

He gave a talk on how Thai Farm came into being, the firm's success stories,

as well as its present challenges. He explained the processes involved in the conversion of cassava roots to High Quality

Cassava Flour (HQCF), and highlighted the uses of the by-products.

The team raised questions which were satisfactorily answered. At the factory, a detailed tour was taken, with the guests seeing all the processes involved in the making of HQCF, right from root testing (i.e., testing starch content of the cassava roots) to the packaging of the end-product. Mr Burger also shared some of his expansion plans with the visitors. Two members of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs, Bekee Barituka and Lamidi Funmilola, said the visit was educative and inspiring. They were grateful for the opportunity to see cassava processing on a large scale and its potential in creating employment and wealth.



Mr Burger gives a talk on the potential of cassava

Niji Farms encourages Agripreneurs' interest in agriculture



IITA Agripreneurs and Malawian farmers in group photo at Niji Farms

A learning visit to the cassava farm, over 3000 ha, owned and managed by a young Nigerian, Mr Kola Adeniji, was tiring but also inspiring.

Mr Adeniji, who sits at the head of the Board of Niji Farms, is one of those successful young farmers in Nigeria.

He told the visitors, "We are redefining agriculture... many people look down on farmers but we want to change that."

The factory processes cassava into High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF), odorless fufu flour, and gari. The gari and fufu are exported to countries such as the United Kingdom and Canada. Apart from having a vast hectarage, Niji Farms is fully automated, yet built on indigenous technology.

"We believe that what is needed to develop Africa is in Africa... so we try as much as possible to have 100 percent local content," Mr Adeniji said.

The visit gave the Agripreneurs the

opportunity to have an overview of Niji farm, to see how Mr Adeniji managed his farm, and also the types of machinery he used for the processing of food products.

Mr Adeniji noted that he was inspired to invest in agriculture after coming in contact with IITA and thanked the Institute for supporting his farm with improved cassava planting materials.

Although the farm mostly grows cassava, Mr Adeniji has also forayed into growing maize and keeping livestock.

"I am looking at integrating all the areas of agriculture ... to making a model farm," he said.

IITA Agripreneurs who visited the farm testified that the farm is a perfect example, demonstrating that agriculture indeed pays off.



IITA Agripreneurs on a learning visit to Niji Farms

One year of IITA Youth Agripreneurs



IITA Agripreneurs with Drs Gbassey Tarawali, Baffour Badu-Apraku and Ms Delphine Amah

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs are a group of young graduates involved in agribusiness, with the aim of being a unit that would serve as a model to other young people planning to venture into agribusiness and becoming the trainer of trainers. Within one year of their existence, they have established many hectares of maize, cassava, and soybean and also plantain/banana fields. They have also multiplied plantain suckers in the macropropagation chamber. They have managed to bridge the gender inequality gap in the team, with their present number standing at 11 men and 10 women.

The activities of the group cut across the value-chains of different crops including cassava, maize, plantain/banana, and soybean. For cassava, the Youth Agripreneurs are into stem multiplication and root production. For maize and soybean, their focus is on seed multiplication (both certified and foundation seeds), whereas for the plantain/banana, they are into sucker multiplication and fruit production.

The uniqueness of the team lies in the heterogeneity of the disciplines inherent therein, ranging across the Arts, Sciences and Social Sciences. After a meeting with the IFAD President, Dr Kanayo Nwanze, intended to spur youth involvement towards sustainable agriculture, the members of the National Youth Service

Corps who were then serving in IITA, Ibadan, under the guidance of the Director-General, Dr. Nteranya Sanginga, responded with enthusiasm to the call on 28 August 2012.

The project began with a series of activities, such as attending seminars and training within and outside the Institute, including a workshop organized by UNIDO in Songhai. Visits to seed companies, most of them in the northern part of Nigeria, were also made. The project has had visitors from various organizations, USAID, UNIDO, FARA, NIPSS, etc., to mention a few.

The Agripreneurs look forward to collaborating with sponsors and investors, as one of their future plans is to expand their production. They wish to become self-independent and self-employed, having acquired the necessary knowledge and skills, and ultimately become employers of labor.



IITA Agripreneurs in their cassava field

“Take opportunities in baking bread with 40 percent cassava”

The Head of the Hotel and Catering Unit of IITA, Mr Samiran Mazumdar, has unveiled the opportunities in including cassava in baking, with a call on the IITA Agripreneurs to take advantage of the technology.

In a lecture on 23 August 2013, he encouraged them to be actively involved in initiatives that would promote the inclusion of cassava in making bread and confectionary.

He highlighted the benefits from including cassava as follows: employment creation, food self-sufficiency, and food security, and called on the Agripreneurs to be innovative in terms proffering ways that would disseminate the technology far and wide.

As developed by IITA, the inclusion of 40 percent cassava flour in baking aims at diversifying the uses of the root crop. The Nigerian Government estimates foreign exchange savings of over N250 billion annually from a cut in wheat imports.

Other benefits include a better price for cassava and improved livelihoods for cassava farmers.

Mr Mazumdar urged the Agripreneurs to consider marketing the cassava bread in kiosks located at strategic locations in Nigeria, baking and/or being actively

involved in raising awareness on the economic and health benefits of including cassava in food.

Other resource persons who gave presentations were IITA biometrician, Mr Sam Korie, and IITA Postharvest Engineer, Mr Thierno Diallo.



Mr Mazumdar gives a talk on opportunities in cassava

Strategic thinkers to propose IITA youth model to Government



Dr Okechukwu receives a plaque on behalf of DG Sanginga from NIPSS team

Members of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) in Kuru, near Jos, Nigeria, will present the IITA model of engaging the youth in agriculture to Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan.

The delegation praised IITA for the concept, emphasizing that the model would be part of the recommendations that would be submitted to the President as part of strategies to tackle food security and unemployment, especially among young people.

"The youth program offers opportunities and we will recommend to Mr President that it should be replicated,"

says Mr Jonathan Juma, leader of the delegation.

The Directing Staff, NIPSS, Brigadier General Johnny Hamakim, noted that IITA was strategic for Africa, adding that a visit to the Institute was imperative for the team to

make informed decisions on food security in Africa.

Welcoming the delegation to IITA on behalf of DG Sanginga, the Coordinator of Cassava Transformation at IITA, Dr Richardson Okechukwu thanked the team for coming and seeking inputs from researchers.

He explained the vision and mission of the Institute under the revised strategy, and also highlighted the milestones recorded by IITA towards addressing the constraints of development both in Nigeria and throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

NIPSS is a policy formation center for bureaucrats, private sector leaders, and Army officers, among others.

This year's visit to IITA was facilitated by Sylvia Oyinlola and Toyin Oke. The delegation had the opportunity to tour the IITA campus. Among places visited were: the Genetic Resources Center, IITA forest, aflasafe factory, banana/plantain unit, and the Postharvest Unit. They also had a taste of the 40% cassava bread.



Maize field of the Agripreneurs

Agripreneurs explore opportunities in the seed sector

Members of the IITA Youth project have explored opportunities in the seed sector, making visits to seed companies across Nigeria. The exploratory visits in 2012 were aimed at exposing them to the potential in the seed sector.

"Plans are underway for these young people to join the Nigerian seed companies in providing farmers with high quality seeds/planting materials (for IITA commodities such as maize, cowpea, soybean, cassava, yam, and banana/plantain) in the first instance," says Dr Gbassey Tarawali, Representative of the DG and DDG (P&CD), who is working closely with them.

Seed companies visited were Da-AllGreen Ltd, Premier Seeds Nigeria Ltd, Nagari Seeds Nigeria Ltd, Savannah Seeds Ltd, National Agricultural Seed Council, Sun Seed and Springfield Agro Ltd, Maslaha Seed Co., Terratiga Ltd, Seed Project Co. Ltd, Maina Seeds Ltd, and Manoma Seeds Co.

During the visit, the Agripreneurs were able to understand the challenges facing the seed sector and came back with plans on how to overcome those challenges.

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs project was initiated by Dr Nteranya Sanginga, IITA Director General, in 2012. The project aims to unlock the potential in agriculture by attracting and engaging young men

and women in agribusiness to create decent employment opportunities comparable to those for their colleagues in the banking, oil, and communication sectors.



Diversity of cowpea seeds

Those behind the project

Ohanwusi, Onyebuchi Evelyn, a graduate of Quantity Surveying from the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State.



I joined this youth program as a corps member at the facilities management service unit of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and became an active member on completion of my service year.

The fact that it is a youth entrepreneurial empowerment program is what I love about it. I equally love it because it has bridged the gender inequality gap, it has given women that voice and opportunity to be better individuals in the society.

The impact of this project in my life is basically in many folds, it has enabled me to view life from an entrepreneurial perspective. I didn't sit for a day at home trying to look for a job; instead I was able to stay busy and have taken agribusiness as another career. I am equally motivated to give back what I have learnt.

Olaniyi Ajibola, I studied Animal Science from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. I was posted to Oyo State for my National Youth Service (NYSC) where I carried out



my primary assignment in IITA Ibadan at the Cassava Breeding Unit. After my NYSC, I joined the IITA Youth Agripreneurs project. The project has brought young graduates from different disciplines together and encouraged us to practice agriculture. IITA Youth Agripreneurs has exposed me to the practical aspect of crop production through training and seminars. It has also been an added advantage for my profession as an animal scientist. I am encouraged to practice agriculture and to also have my own farm and livestock production.

Adewale Joshua Akintayo, a graduate of Computer Science from Osun State College of Technology Esa-Oke, Osun State, Nigeria.



After my one year of national youth service at International House, I was given an offer by the Manager, but I decided to join this group

because I believe that this program will solve the high rate of unemployment if I can also add my own quota.

It has been an exciting platform of learning for me with a lot of challenges and opportunities to become self-dependent in the nearest future.

This project gives me hope that I can perform very well if I have my own farm although I studied Computer Science.

Omole Toluwase, I studied Accountancy at The Polytechnic Ibadan, Oyo State. I joined the group because I see it not only as a positive working environment but also as a place where my skills can be utilized and developed.



The program has had a big impact on my life by training me to be self-employed and to train others on better agronomy practices.

Jinadu Olaide Idiat, a graduate of Economics from Tai Solarin University of Education. I came into IITA August 2012 as a youth corper (NYSC), during this period I had the opportunity of working in the International House as a receptionist. My duties were to make reservations for incoming guests, attend to guests' complaints, needs, etc.



After my NYSC I joined IITA Youth Agripreneurs which was initiated by the DG of IITA. Being a graduate of Economics with no knowledge in agriculture, I think one of the things missing in agriculture today is innovation. Today's generation of farmers, teachers, and agricultural scientists have collectively failed to trigger youths' interest and participation in agriculture and agribusiness. It is up to us (the youth) to be more innovative and take up the challenge. With my involvement in agribusiness I can be proud to call myself a farmer.

Chilaka Chidi Stanley, a student of University of Ibadan studying Economics. I came about this project when the DG called all serving in NYSC during the visit of the IFAD President, Dr Kanayo. What I like about the project is the initiative behind it, which is eradicating unemployment



amongst the youth. I see the project having an impact in the aspect of my education, intellect, and on my life as a whole.

Nathaniel Michael Ezechi by name, a graduate of Logistics Management and Transport from the Federal University of Technology, Owerri. I did my NYSC with the Supply Chain Unit of IITA. During this period, the Youth in Agriculture program came into being here in IITA through its DG (Dr Sanginga). So far, I have gained lots of experience from the program, and I believe at the end we would be able to convince the youth and women that it pays to be involved in agriculture.



Adewale Oluwatoyin Adebanke, a graduate of Ladoko Akintola University. I obtained a B. Tech in Agronomy. My passion and interest for the agripreneur started the day the DG (Dr Sanginga) held a meeting with us after the visit of the IFAD President (Dr Kanayo), where he challenged the youth to be proactive in agriculture. I became motivated and determined.



Since I joined the project, I have had more knowledge and experience about practical work. I have come to see agriculture in different dimensions: Communication, production, marketing, training, etc.

The world we create tomorrow comes from the values, the hard work, and the commitment we bring to today's effort. Therefore it has been a privilege to learn and to be able to train others. After leaving the agripreneurs, I would like to set up an agricultural business.

Mustapha Quadri, I attended Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State and studied Botany.



After my service year in the Yam Breeding Unit, Dr Lopez Montes offered me a consultancy but I have always wanted to be an employer of labor from my school days. I figured that I could achieve this by being a member of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs. So I resigned from Yam Breeding to join the group.

The impacts of the group on my life are numerous. Being with the group gave me experience in agriculture in totality, the opportunity to have dialogs with renowned scientists in the Institute, a chance to speak directly with the Deputy DG and the DG without a third party.

Kolo Kashi Julianah, a graduate of Biochemistry from the University of Ilorin, Kwara State. I was posted to Oyo State for my NYSC and had my primary assignment in IITA Water Treatment plant, after which I joined the IITA Youth Agripreneurs, an initiative of the DG of IITA (Dr Sanginga). The project has motivated me to be disciplined, learn more about agricultural activities, see agriculture from a different perspective, be a Trainer of Trainers, set up my own farm business, and be a role model to other young people in Africa.



Atu Obinna Andrew, I graduated from Ebonyi State University with a degree in Crop Production and Landscape Management Technology. I came into the project as a corps member while serving in IITA Research Farm office.



I like the project because it is a platform for learning and training. With the trainings I have acquired, I think I am very equipped in practical terms. The project has had an impact on my life in so many ways and with the knowledge I have acquired, I will be a role model to others in my generation.

Idowu Abosede, a graduate of the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta (FUNAAB). I studied Animal Breeding and Genetics. The program was initiated by Dr. Sanginga for members of the NYSC who served in IITA. That was how I became an automatic member of the group.

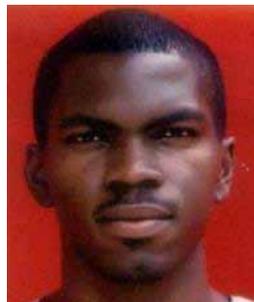


The project has exposed me to

practical knowledge of crops such as plantain, maize, cassava, and soybean. I have also learned how to manage people and resources through exposure to the market value and importance of the crops. Presently, I am practically equipped to establish my own field and supervise, and manage resources.

The program has been enlightening and has had a great impact. It has reduced the rate of unemployment among fresh graduates in Africa.

Benjamin Adetola, a graduate of Biochemistry from Yaba College of Technology, Lagos. I joined IITA after serving in the Bioscience Unit of the Institute (via the NYSC program). On completion of my service year and amidst several job offers, I opted to become a farmer.



Dr Sanginga, the DG, addressed all the serving members of the NYSC in IITA with a view to proffering a solution to the challenges faced by the youth in general. The concept involves adopting modern techniques and exploring various opportunities in the agricultural value chain as a means of creating jobs, making money, and ultimately becoming self-dependent. This is unique because it made it possible for people with different orientations and disciplines of study to be involved in agriculture.

The fact that agriculture is vital for the sustainable growth of an economy, coupled with the infectious drive and passion of the DG in tackling the problems of unemployment awakens the entrepreneurial force in me and thus made me resolve to help to achieve the goals and objectives of the program (IITA Youth Agripreneurs) as conceptualized by the DG as well as establishing myself as an agricultural entrepreneur.

Barituka Bekee, a graduate of Economics from the University of Port-Harcourt. I spent my NYSC year with the Cassava Value-Chain unit of IITA, during which the Youth in Agriculture Program took off. I believe the project will equip me with the knowledge and skills required to exploit the vast opportunities that exist in modern agriculture for developing economies like that of Nigeria. Being a part of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs



has been a great experience thus far, and I hope the success of this project will inspire more youth involvement in agriculture within and outside the shores of this nation.

Lamidi Sarafat Funmilola, a graduate of Computer Science from the Osun State Polytechnic, Iree.

After I finished my compulsory one year service in the Communication and Publishing unit of IITA, I joined the IITA Youth Agripreneurs which was founded by the DG Dr Sanginga. Being a Computer Science graduate and finding myself in the Agricultural field give me the privilege of having more knowledge about agriculture. The trainings I have undergone equipped me to be a trainer to others interested in agriculture and also to be a role model to them.



Ogunsanmi Roseline Modupe, I studied Crop, Soil and Pest Management at the Federal University of Technology in Ondo State. I was posted to Oyo state for my National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) where I carried out my primary assignment in IITA Ibadan at the Research Farm unit as a Field Supervisor. After my NYSC I joined IITA Youth agripreneur; a new initiative by the Director General of IITA (Dr. Nteranya Sanginga). The project has really impacted me with knowledge through the practical trainings and seminars. It will enable me to establish my own farm business and to be a role model to other youths in Africa.



Ezemenaka John Bosco, I studied Agriculture and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Soil Science and Land Management from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. I came into the Agripreneurs through a Youth in Agribusiness Initiative by IITA's DG (Dr Sanginga). Personally, I feel passionately about this project in that it has affirmatively generated in me the desire to promote the interest of the youth in



undertaking agriculture as a self-employment business, it has also broadened my scope about agriculture and significantly motivated my interest in agriculture as a business.

Ogidan Oluwaseun Oladunni. I studied Agricultural Economics and Extension Services at the University of Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State.



After my NYSC I joined the Agripreneurs project set up by the DG, Dr Sanginga, for youth empowerment, so that I can get some needed advantage to carry on in life.

I particularly like the practical aspect of this program as it has afforded me the opportunity to balance the theory I learnt from the classroom with

actual happenings on the field. Thanks to the trainings I have undergone, I am now equipped with knowledge to help me practice agriculture. The Agripreneurs project has really had a positive impact on my life and I can now boldly say that I can be self-dependent. I can train others and at the same time serve as a role model.

Obafemi, Ajibola Victoria, a graduate of Agricultural Economics and Extension from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Oyo State. I came into IITA as a



corps member in the Cassava Breeding Unit. After my NYSC, I joined IITA Youth Agripreneurs, a new initiative by the DG (Dr Sanginga). The project has motivated me and enabled me to practice my area of study through its practical aspects.

I see the youth program bringing new things in my life, thereby making me a role model for others in Nigeria, making me understand that there is a mechanized way of practicing agriculture involving less drudgery.

Akinyele Bankole Odunayo, a graduate of Statistics from Federal Polytechnic Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State. I am from Ekiti



State and I was born on 5 April.

I came into the program as a member of the NYSC and it all started on 21 August 2012, when Dr Kanayo Nwanze, the IFAD President came to IITA for a lecture entitled "Rejuvenation: Investing In Agriculture for the Future of Nigeria and its Young People." At the lecture, he challenged all the youth to be involved in agriculture. One week later, (on 28 August) Dr Sanginga, the DG, called all NYSC members in IITA and formed a group which is today called IITA Youth Agripreneurs. I was appointed the Coordinator of the program.

I like a lot of things about the program and have also gained a lot from it. I have learned how to be self-employed, business oriented, and a good leader. The program has also positively changed my orientation about agricultural practices and how to make money.

Bello, Oluwatobi Rilwan, a graduate of Plant Physiology and Crop Production from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. I did my National Youth Service at the Virology and Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory. After my NYSC, I was given a 3-month consultancy job. On completion



of the 3 months, I decided to join the IITA Youth Agripreneurs.

The youth project has been an avenue for positive changes where I can actually practice what I learnt in school and fully utilize my potential. I have been to different seminars, training (on-field) and conferences which have really helped me in improving myself. The project has trained me to be a trainer.

Gbadamosi Muritala Adesola, a graduate of History from the famous Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria-Nigeria. The program is a youth



entrepreneurial empowerment program and it has reduced unemployment to an extent. I equally love it because it has bridged the gender inequality gap by encouraging the female youths to go into agriculture.

The impact of this project in my life is basically in many folds, it has enabled me to view life from a different perspective. I stayed at home without a job for almost 2 years but today I stay busy and thus I have taken agribusiness as another career. I have equally been motivated to encourage other youths in this same field and I can train other youths on modern farming techniques.

Agripreneurs get mentoring on agric journalism

To improve the communication of agricultural news, IITA Agripreneurs have been mentored on communication tools.

IITA Communication Officer for West and Central Africa, Mr Godwin Atser exposed the team to the various opportunities in the communication industry.

He advised the young people to develop

their writing and oral communication skills, stressing that it would help them in creating awareness about their activities.

Mr. Atser, who himself is a social scientist, said that communication was the key to agricultural transformation. He also talked about a vista of opportunities in social media which is a new driver of innovation transfer.



Agripreneurs taking instructions