



# IITA

## Youth Agripreneurs

*Agriculture is the future*

June 2015 Issue 10

## DR Congo to adopt IITA Agripreneurs model



Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of Congo, Augustin Matata Ponyo (far left) at one of the exhibition stands of IITA Youth Agripreneurs

The Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Matata Ponyo Mapon has identified agriculture as a major sector which can accelerate the growth of African economies.

Prime Minister Matata Ponyo stated this on Tuesday (14th July) at an exhibition organized by the government and IITA.

The exhibition which was tagged: "Young Congolese and Agribusiness exhibition," showcased various products derived from cassava and soybean at the Prime Minister's garden in Kinshasa.

Prime Minister Matata Ponyo said the government of the country had identified that youths were the agent of change that could bring the necessary technologies and zeal to revolutionize the agricultural sector.

He added that the government of the country shared the IITA's vision of improving agriculture through research, science driven agriculture

and youth involvement in the sector. "The organization of this exhibition is a testimony of the engagement of the President, His Excellency Joseph Kabila, the Prime Minister, and other ministries to improve agriculture especially in the rural areas," he added.

Impressed by the activities of IITA especially in the area of youth involvement in agriculture, the Prime Minister commended the Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga for the youth initiative and promised that the country would support the spread of the initiative in the country.

Appreciating the Prime Minister and members of the cabinet for the opportunity given to IITA to showcase agriculture from a new dimension, IITA's country representative, Dr Nzola Mahungu said the IITA Youth Agripreneurs' initiative which is spreading across Africa is aimed at reducing youth unemployment around the continent.

"Agriculture is the best sector to involve youth in business. IITA initiated the Agripreneurs' model which is now famous on the continent to get youths involved in agriculture. These young Agripreneurs are really committed to learning and doing business using agriculture along the value chain from production to processing and marketing," he said.

He added that although the group already existed in parts of DRC such as Bukavu, Kinshasa and Kisangani, there were plans that it would be extended to the remaining parts of the country.

The IITA Youth Agripreneur groups in DRC were joined by their counterparts from Nigeria for the exhibition.

The exhibition was one of the outcomes of the initial visit of two Special Advisers to the Prime Minister to IITA Ibadan, Nigeria. The Special Advisers, Mr Gerome Masankisi Kamwanga and John Ulimwengu had visited IITA in June this year to explore areas of partnership and investment with the Institute.

## IITA launches Agripreneur program at Uganda



DG-IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga (5th from left - standing) and some stakeholders at the launch of Uganda Youth Agripreneurs

As part of its effort to actively engage African youths in agriculture, the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) officially launched the Uganda chapter of the organization. The Uganda chapter known as the Uganda Youth Agripreneurs (UYA) was launched on Wednesday, 24 June 2014 in the Mukono District of Uganda.

The Uganda Youth Agripreneurs (UYA) which started in Nabbale, Mukono District, in collaboration with the National Agricultural Research Organisation, Makerere University, and the Mukono Local Government is aimed at bringing together university graduates in the area from diverse backgrounds to be trained on modern farming methods, post-harvest processing, value addition to agricultural produce, and entrepreneurship.

During his speech at the launch, a Member of Parliament, Mr Katooto Habib encouraged the youths to be patient

and take advantage of the cutting edge technologies in agriculture.

The Former Director of Uganda Investment Authority, and a major stakeholder in Pepsi-cola, Uganda, Dr Maggie Kigozi, urged the young people not to see themselves as powerless but instead use the different networks that they have already established to start something productive.

He advised the youths to develop a saving culture to achieve the dream of becoming independent entrepreneurs.

The Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, during his remarks, advised the youths to be aggressive, innovative, and to always consider gender equity in whatever they do.

His words, "IITA is going to support you in technology, knowledge, and advocacy but you should do the rest of the activities by yourselves." Also promising

continuous support to the youths, the Director General of Uganda National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Dr Ambrose Agona stated that the organization would provide technologies that would help further the new journey they have started. He noted that there was so much energy in young people that could be tapped and put to good use. Shedding light on the formation of the group, Dr Piet van Asten, IITA-Uganda country representative, said the creation of the program was in response to the high

priority placed on solutions to youth unemployment during a stakeholder exercise in Mukono and Wakiso, which are the two districts where the IITA-led Humidtropics program is operating.

His words, "Starting this program today here in Mukono is an indication not only of the usefulness of stakeholder engagement in priority setting but also of the willingness on the research side to follow through what is demanded by the stakeholders."

Others at the event were Dr Victor Manyong, IITA Director for East Africa; Mr Buyungo Musa, the Coordinator for Parliamentary Forum on Food Security and Population Issues in the Parliament of Uganda; representatives of IYA from Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, and representatives from other partnering institutions such as Makerere University, Uganda Christian University (UCU) as well as various farmers' organizations.

## IITA Youth Agripreneurs explores partnership with Swedish University of Agriculture



Members of IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) are exploring opportunities including exchange programs between IYA and

students in Agricultural and Rural Management at Swedish University of Agriculture (SLU) in Sweden.

The move is part of IYA's objective to gain momentum and upscale agriculture by providing jobs for young, well-educated persons in the agricultural sector.

SLU is a university which coordinates, supports, and informs research, teaching, and other activities with the aim of contributing to the development of agriculture in low-income countries.

As a first step to materialise a potential collaboration between the IYA and SLU, a representative of IYA, Olaide Jinadu, who visited SLU in Sweden presented

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two seminars showcasing the activities of IYA and potentials of the members in Nigeria and other hubs. While presenting a seminar titled; Promoting Youth Employment in Agriculture and Agribusiness to the students in Agricultural and Rural Management (Lantmästare) at the Alnarp campus of the university, Olaide through her presentation, showcased the various opportunities across the agricultural value chain.



Olaide Jinadu presenting at SLU Ultuna on May 25  
Photo by Malin Planting

She added that the visit to SLU was an interesting

avenue for IYA and Lantmästare students to interact, share ideas, and explore possibilities of synchronizing academics with business. "Visiting SLU was an eye opener, seeing agriculture being practiced in a different way during visits to different agribusiness farms (crop production, dairy farms, etc.) where youths were actively involved and showed great interest," she said. The IYA representative who was also at the Ultuna campus of the university also

stressed the importance of facilitating the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SLU and a Nigerian academic institution in order to formalize an academic exchange and partnership program.

The students, who will be paying an exchange visit to IYA in Nigeria soon, are expected to see a difference in field studies and how they can use ICT tools in agribusiness to network. Also of

importance to them are: visiting different large and small scale agribusiness processing facilities and production farms; and seeing the training IYA renders to farmers, compared to what is practiced in Sweden. A future opportunity would then be to apply for a Linneaus-Palme program, making it an avenue for exchange of both teachers and

students, integrating global perspective to the learning process. Olaide's visit to SLU came after the visit of DDG in charge of research in IITA, Dr Ylva Hillbur to Alnarp in February 2015. During that visit to Alnarp at the East Africa Symposium, Dr Hillbur talked about the IITA Youth Agripreneurs Program to the youths in Sweden and this stirred their interest in the activities of IYA.

## IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs (IKYA) diversifies into High Quality Maize Flour production



IKYA members with the harvested maize from the Murhesa site.



Members of the IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs (IKYA) in their continuous efforts to exploit more opportunities inherent in agriculture and ultimately generate more income have ventured into the production of high quality maize flour.

Church in Bukavu, and processed into 80 bags weighing 25kg each. The Catholic church of Bukavu has been partnering with IITA in the dissemination of newly developed technologies.

The first batch of maize flour was produced as part of value addition from maize harvested from its field at the Murhesa Center and was distributed in Bukavu and its environs.

This partnership has enabled IKYA to access space for their seed production and demonstration fields. During the first season of production, IKYA established an intercropped maize – soybean field (2.5 ha) and biofortified bean seed multiplication field (1 ha).

Five tonnes of maize were harvested from land given to them by the Catholic



High quality maize flour produced and packaged by IKYA members

# IITA Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs partners FJS African Starch Development Company Limited

The IITA Tanzania Youth Agripreneur (ITYA) is partnering with FJS African Starch Development Company Limited in the area of cassava cultivation.

The partnership involves the cultivation of 20 acres of cassava farmland which will be used in the production of starch for household and industrial uses. The FJS African Starch Development Company Limited which is located at Ubungo external with its starch production

facilities located at Bungo, Rufiji has been involved in cassava cultivation.

To meet up with the increase in demand for starch, the company decided to seek the partnership of youth agripreneurs who are actively engaged in agriculture to cultivate farmlands of cassava to be used in the production of starch. The cassava which is to be sold to the industry after harvest will contribute to ITYA revenue and help the group to expand its



membership and activities to other areas.

## Photo gallery Visit of Lawrence Kent



Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Lawrence Kent (4th from left and holding newsletter) and IITA-DDG (Partnerships & Capacity Development), Dr Kenton Dashiell (5th from left - in front) with the IITA Youth Agripreneurs

## Visit of Dr Malu Ndavi of IFAD



Dr Malu at the pig pen of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs



Dr Malu feeding the fish at one of the ponds of the youths

## Training on soybean production at Lilongwe, Blantyre, Malawi



DDG-IITA (Partnerships & Capacity Development), Dr Kenton Dashiell (R) and youth agripreneurs on a field-learning visit



Dr Dashiell (Middle) and the reps (Lemon green shirt) of IYA

## Entrepreneurship workshop on Agribusiness for National Youth Corp members



Odusanya Oludare, delivering a welcome address at the workshop



Atu Obinna, demonstrating the appropriate application of herbicide

## Visit of Dr Arjen Roem



Skretting's Technical Manager for Africa (L), Dr Arjen Roem at IYA's hatchery facility

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