



IITA

Youth Agripreneurs

Agriculture is the future

August 2015 Issue 11

How southern Africa can unleash its agriculture potential--Dr Nteranya Sanginga



Dr Alfred Dixon delivering a lecture at the conference organized by CCARDESA in South Africa

Mustapha Quadri, a member of IYA, gave the presentation after which he took questions from the audience. The presentation was based on the various products and value addition that can be derived from cassava. Cassava products were concentrated on due to the fact that the exhibition focused on cassava-based products. Participants visiting the exhibition stands liked the cassava products

The Director General of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Dr Nteranya Sanginga has called on southern African countries to tap into the youth population in the region in order to address food insecurity and end unemployment.

Addressing policymakers and youths in the region at a conference organized by Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA), Dr Sanginga said the youth population in the region should be seen more of an asset than a problem.

"Youths have the energy, and if we are able to tap this energy we will be able to advance agriculture on the continent," Dr Sanginga who was represented by Dr Alfred Dixon, said in Durban, South Africa, 3-6 August.

Speaking on the topic: UNLOCKING AGRIBUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; the Director General gave an account of how a youth program (IITA Youth

Agripreneurs) initiated by IITA in 2012 is attracting youths into agriculture.

"From zero dollars, these youths have been able to grow their incomes to \$700 per month," he explained.

"On their own, these young men and women are today managing different enterprises including cassava, maize, vegetables, soybean, banana and plantains, fish, and livestock," he added.

According to him, the experience of IITA from the youth program clearly demonstrated that with institutional support and mentoring, youths could be engaged in agriculture to make a decent living.

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) also gave their presentation during the break-away sessions, in the sub-theme 3 group tagged; *The Role of Youth in Innovations and Agribusiness Solution: Cassava Case Study by The IITA Youth Agripreneurs*. The presentation was titled: "*Cassava Product, Processing and Marketing.*"

(eg fufu, garri, tidbits, chinchin, cake and cookies).

Earlier in his keynote address, the Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Dr Yemi Akinbami said, "Agricultural sector needs to be transformed in order to provide employment for the youth in Africa and we need to increase value addition to attract the youth."

The Executive Director of CCARDESA, Prof Timothy Simalenga on his part commended IITA and other partners for initiating youth programs to attract youths into agriculture, and emphasized that CCARDESA would continue to support agricultural development in the region with emphasis on getting more youths engaged in agriculture.

Those who attended the meeting from IITA were: Mr Godwin Atser, Ugheoke Avoedoghia Diana, Christophe Kongolo, Caroline Liwena, Bupe Gwasa, Ronald Ongario and Christine Zamugurha.

IITA Youth Agripreneurs promote cassava based products in South Africa



Avo (in red) educating the participants at the IYA exhibition stand

IITA Youth Agripreneurs' exhibition stand was rated as one of the best by participants at a conference organized by Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA) recently.

The participants who took time out to visit the IYA exhibition booth showed interest in various products displayed by the youths. Products displayed, which were by-products of cassava and cassava flour included garri, High

Quality Cassava Flour, fufu, bread, cakes, biscuit, cookies, *chinchin*, and tidbit.

Amazed at the taste of the products, there was a lot of curiosity on the importance of making use of cassava flour for confectioneries and other products. The representative of the IYA, Avoedoghie Ugheoke who was stationed at the exhibition stand enlightened participants on the benefits of using cassava flour. She also highlighted the economic value explaining that the use of cassava flour would reduce the importation of wheat flour and upscale the production and use of cassava.

She explained, "In Nigeria, statistics show that we spend billions of naira on the importation of wheat flour for the production of several snacks and confectioneries. This is not a positive development to the economy, so the government is gradually working towards substituting the use of wheat flour for cassava flour to minimize the importation of wheat flour."

IITA Youth Agripreneurs showcase products at Lagos exhibition

Representatives of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs recently participated at an agribusiness conference organized by the Covenant Christian Center at the Church auditorium in Iganmu, Lagos on the 22nd of August.

Themed: "SME OPPORTUNITIES IN NIGERIA'S AGRIBUSINESS VALUE CHAIN", the conference was aimed at enlightening participants on the central role of agriculture in Nigeria's economic development.

Speaking on the topic, "Addressing the Technological Constraints of Agribusiness in Nigeria", Dr Alfred Dixon, Head of Partnerships Coordination, and Leader of the Cassava Weed Management Project, stated that youths have a very important role to play in the development of agriculture in Nigeria. Referring to the youth as an untapped resource in Nigeria, Dr Dixon emphasized the need for government and other stakeholders



IYA's exhibition stand in Lagos, Nigeria; Oyesiji Funmilayo (L), Mrs Ezine Ibe (M) and Mr Olatunji Olayiwola

in the sector to consider the youth and carry them along in various agriculture development policies. Giving a case study of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs, Dr Dixon stressed that with training, mindset change and

technical support, the youth can be productively engaged in agriculture. Dr Dixon also gave detailed information on the contribution of the IITA Business Incubation Platform (BIP) to the development of agriculture

in Africa. Other speakers at the event also delivered lectures on ways of addressing Agribusiness Value Chain in the development of Nigeria's economy. Several products from IITA such as cassava bread, cassava cake, cassava

cookies, IYA Tidbit, IYA Soymilk, maize seeds, soybean seeds, cowpea seeds, Aflasafe and Nodumax inoculants were exhibited at the IITA / IYA exhibition stands. The exhibition stand recorded

a large turnout of people with lots of them indicating interest on the distribution and sales of IYA's product. The event had over 1,500 participants in attendance.

IITA Youth Agripreneurs undergo training on soybean value addition



Members of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs - Ajuruchukwu Promise, Obafemi Victoria and Akinsiku Damilola undergoing training at Kenya

According to the trainees, the training was based on how to produce high quality soymilk without sickle, and improve the thickness and uniformity in the taste of the soymilk produced by IYA so as to meet the necessary requirements for certification.

The training also served as an eye opener for the processing team to identify the specific and appropriate equipment to use for the production of soymilk and to acquire skills in other soybean value added products such as yoghurt, Mala

As part of its bid to expand the production scale and quality of the value added products, some representatives of the Processing and Marketing Unit of IYA in May attended a one-week training in Kenya.

The trainees, Akinsiku Damilola, Obafemi Victoria, and Ajuruchukwu Promise were trained on soybean value addition at the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) in Kisumu and Bungoma counties respectively.

(fermented milk) and Tofu (soycheese). The team was also trained on the effective use of modern technologies for the production of the soymilk, safety and cleanliness during production.



Agribusiness: Key to Productive Youth Engagement

7 - 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2015
IITA, KANO STATION

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



...Agriculture is the future

IITA Youth Agripreneurs on 07 September 2015 commenced a second-batch agribusiness training workshop on how to engage youths

from Borno State in agriculture. The workshop tagged: "Key to Productive Youth Engagement", is geared towards increasing the knowledge of the young

people in sustainable agricultural practices and developing their entrepreneurial skills in agribusiness to facilitate their self-dependence.

Photo gallery

Visit of Finland Ambassador



Amb Pirjo Suomela-Chowdhury (Middle) with some of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs

Visit of India High Commissioner



Evelyn Ohanwusi welcoming Mr A.R. Ghana Shyam to the Agripreneurs' office.

Hire for phenotyping



The DJI Inspire 1 drone

DJI Inspire 1 and Phantom 2 vision + drone camera are two flying cameras recently acquired by the IITA Youth Agripreneurs. It is one of the latest technologies adopted by the youth for capturing aerial pictures and video documentation of field activities.

The flying camera can take an aerial view picture and video of fields and also monitor the growth of crops especially for research purposes.

IITA Youth Agripreneurs offers this service at an affordable cost.

For enquiries on booking and rent contact:

Dare 07038587093

Evelyn 08054096374

Michael 08037805807

Or send an e-mail to

ITA-Agripreneur@cgiar.org

Call Ext. 2216/2975.

Visit of Hon Afam Mbanefo, Anambra State Commissioner for Agriculture



... with the DG IITA Dr Nteranya Sanginga and members of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs



*A sample picture of a field taken with the drone
Picture taken at one of the demonstration fields of the IITA Cassava Weed Management Science Project*

Writers/Contributors: Michael Nathaniel, Lamidi Funmilola, Adenmosun Adetola, Adefoye Adedayo, Ugheoke Avo, Mustapha Quadri, Oyesiji Funmilayo, Akinsiku Damilola and Obafemi Victoria,

Layout/design: Adefoye Adedayo

This newsletter is produced by IITA Youth Agripreneurs

Editorial support from: Godwin Atser (g.atser@cgiar.org) and Osunde Timilehin (t.osunde@cgiar.org)