



IITA

Youth Agripreneur

Agriculture is the future

September 2015 Issue 12

How teamwork and partnership are helping agripreneurs in DR Congo



IKYA team excavating their first pond

IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneur (IKYA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the South-Kivu provincial government of DRC. The signing of the MoU, which was facilitated by the Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, is to help IKYA in the expansion of its aquaculture activities in the Nyakabera and Lwiro area of the province.

IKYA, which also diversified into fish farming, recently discovered about 50 abandoned ponds in Nyakabera and Lwiro. The group, which has been exploring opportunities of expanding the fish farming business, which started with one pond in Murhesa, embarked on a survey and search around the province to look for strategic areas where ponds can be sited for proximity.

During the search, the group discovered 38 ponds in Nyakebera. The Nyakebera ponds, which are properties of the Congolese government were constructed through a partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and

the Peace Corp in 1978 to tackle animal protein deficiency in children in DRC. The ponds, which operated till 1992, were abandoned due to war and unrest, which lasted for about two decades in DRC.

Another set of ponds discovered by the IKYA were located in the Lwiro Research Center. The 50 ponds in Lwiro were established to cater for protein deficient children in DRC but had since been abandoned by the Center.



Aerial view of 6 of the 50 ponds of the IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneur

Realizing the business and employment opportunities these abandoned ponds could fetch the group and other unemployed youths in the province, the IKYA team sought the permission of IITA and other concerned authorities to resuscitate fish production in the ponds.

Sharing the success story of IITA Youth Agripreneur (IYA) in Nigeria on fish farming with IKYA, Dr Sanginga said the group would be given the necessary support to ensure that they excel as well. He commended the youths for

their efforts and initiative. Meanwhile, to effectively manage these fish ponds and compete with other fish farmers in the country, members of IKYA have embarked on trainings with individuals, government, and non-governmental organizations.

Among such individuals is Dr Agbebi Funmilola Omolara. Dr Agbebi, who is a consultant in aquamarine in Rwanda, trained the IKYA team on the Management Strategies of ponds, Integrated Fish Farming as well as Cost

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Benefit Analysis of fish farming. Through her research on Fisheries Economics, International Marine Policy, Toxicology study of the Aquatic Environment, and Fish Post-harvest Techniques in the Tropics; the IKYA team will also be trained in Fish Nutrition, Post-harvest

Technology, Pond Construction and Management, Environmental and Aquatic pollution, Natural Resource Economics, and Fish Feeds' formulation. In preparation for this, members of IKYA have intensified efforts in areas of capacity building, partnerships'

creation, and exchange visits. Presently, a proposal on "Unlocking job opportunities for youths and sexually abused women in South-Kivu", has been submitted to IITA while also preparing a business plan on the integrated fish farming system.

IITA Youth Agripreneur trains youth in Borno State

As follow-up to the, "Youth in Agribusiness", training which started last year for the youth in Borno State, the IITA Youth Agripreneur (IYA) has concluded the 2nd phase of the training, which took place in September .

The two-week training workshop, which was held at the IITA station in Kano state, was organized by IYA in collaboration with the N2Africa project, and was targeted at unlocking jobs opportunities for 20 young men and women from Biu Local Government Area of Borno state.

The youth were taken through a series of classroom and on-field sessions on Post-harvest Mechanization, ICT in Agribusiness, Agribusiness Marketing, Safe and Effective use of Pesticides, Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Micro Small and Medium Scale Enterprise; Cowpea, Groundnut and Soybean Production, and Fish Farming System. It is envisaged that this approach will enable the trainees to identify various



A cross-section of during the training workshop, facilitated by one of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs, Adesanya Omotomiwa

value chains of interest and to set up business enterprises around these areas. The trainees were also trained on how to write a good business plan for their respective agribusiness enterprises.

In his presentation and welcome address, Country Representative of N2Africa Project, Dr Emmanuel Sangodele encouraged the trainees to show interest in acquiring new skills and knowledge

that would enhance their independence in agriculture.

The goal of the workshop, which was tagged; "Agribusiness:Key to Productive Youth Engagement", was aimed at enabling young people to increase their knowledge in sustainable agronomic practices and developing their entrepreneurial skills in agribusiness to promote self-reliance.

The youth expressed

gratitude to IITA, IYA, and N2Africa Project for the opportunity given to them to explore the potential areas in agriculture and agribusiness.

They emphasized that the workshop had not only changed their view on agriculture, but also exposed them to the opportunities inherent in agriculture especially along the value chain of various crops and aquaculture.

Trainees talk about their experience



Jummai Sikta:

I like the fact that agriculture has a lot of value chains. Before now, I never wanted to do agriculture because I did not like going to the farm, but now I can be involved. All I need is to be an actor or a player along the value chain.



Samson Jibir Wakawa

I now know the basic steps to follow when establishing an agribusiness. As an entrepreneur, what you need goes beyond ideas and money. Planning is very important to succeed.



Dorathy Balami

I like the training methodology of the IITA Agripreneurs and how they have imparted knowledge to us especially when it comes to marketing products using the 4 Ps (Product, Promotion, Price and Place).

IKYA partners PANZI foundation to empower young men and women

IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneur (IKYA) is collaborating with the PANZI Foundation in Bukavu to empower sexually abused women by creating jobs for them through agriculture.

PANZI Foundation is a subsidiary of PANZI hospital, owned by serial award winner Dr Denis Mukwege, who is a renowned gynaecologist in Bukavu, DRC. Established in 1992, the Foundation has provided medical help to more than 30,000 victims of sexual violence.

Through the partnership, IKYA will be providing trainings and other support services in agro-processing and aquaculture. According to Eric Sika, Head of the Partnership, Marketing and Advocacy unit of IKYA, the training will not only create jobs for the women, but will also support in re-integrating them into the society. He added that a



Dr Mukwege (far right) addressing the Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs

proposal has been developed by IKYA, ICART and Humidtropics to that effect, and is currently being reviewed by IITA for further action. Dr Mukwege who commended IITA for the youth initiative

expressed readiness to work with the youth to support their effort in fighting sexual violence and unemployment through agriculture in DRC.

IYA explores areas of partnership with SLU



The SLU students and staff giving a presentation at the office of IITA Youth Agripreneur

Students of Agricultural and Rural Management at the Swedish University of Agriculture (SLU) in Sweden recently visited Nigeria to explore areas of partnership with the IITA Youth Agripreneur (IYA) in Ibadan between 18 and 25 August.

The partnership, which is part of IYA's objective to gain momentum is expected to foster collaborative research and knowledge sharing on modern agronomic practices and mechanization.

Prior to the visit of the students of SLU to Nigeria, a representative of IYA, Jinadu Olaide visited SLU in May and presented two seminars showcasing

the activities of IYA and the potential of members in Nigeria and other hubs.

During an interactive session between IYA and the SLU students on August 20, the two groups shared their experience in agribusiness, mechanization, value addition and also challenges encountered by young agripreneurs in the agricultural sector. Giving a

background on IYA, a member of IYA, Evelyn Ohanwusi, stated that members of the group have been able to increase their level of productivity and income through the various staple crops and value addition to their commodities. She also gave an insight into how each unit of the organization operates and complements each other's effort across the agricultural value chain.

She stressed that agriculture, though very profitable, would be more fascinating to youths if modern technologies and mechanization were available and accessible.

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SLU students: (L-R) Karlsson Carl Rickard, Eriksson Kim, Sanden Marie Christine, and Ydren Charlotta

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A student representative of SLU, Richard Karlsson said after graduation from their institution, most of them would become farm managers, advisors to banks, crop production, and insurance professionals etc.

He stated that the younger generation of farmers in Sweden had made a difference in the agriculture sector

through education and the use of modern farming technologies. He explained that "Someones network of knowledge in school gives you higher chances of income and profit when running a field because you learn and know what to do, and how to do it better. Starting the farming business is not easy in Sweden as well because the machines are quite expensive. Getting

a market for your produce is another challenge faced by farmers in Sweden too." The SLU students Richard Karlsson, Kim Eriksson, Charlotta Ydren, and Christine Sanden were accompanied by Prof Teun Dekker, Mr Torsten Horndahl, and Larsson Jan. The team also visited IYA fields and some other agribusiness enterprise within the South-west region of Nigeria.

From the desk of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs in Abuja

The IITA Youth Agripreneur (IYA) program is a poverty reduction and job creation strategy adopted by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). The program, which started in IITA Ibadan is fast spreading across several countries and hubs where IITA is stationed.

In Abuja, the IITA Youth Agripreneurs Abuja (IYAA) is coming up with strategies to help youths increase their interest in agriculture especially in the Northern part of Nigeria. The potential inherent in the agricultural sector in Africa is vast,

cutting across marketing, production, livestock, aquaculture and transportation etc. and youths can easily create employment in the agriculture sector.

However, to attract the youth, there needs to be institutional and technical support, mentoring, training, and mindset change.

The IYA concept which addresses agricultural constraints across the value chain is gradually making agriculture more appealing for newcomers and

youths. The model provides solutions to some of the challenges encountered in the sector, and young people who have no prior knowledge of agriculture or agribusiness can acquire agribusiness skills through effective training.

With the results achieved so far, the IITA Agripreneurs have come to realize that youths do not have to wait for white collar jobs before being gainfully employed.

For a crunchy bite... Contact the office of the IITA Youth Agripreneur for TIDBIT

Tidbit delight is a crunchy snack made from cassava and cowpea flour. It is highly nutritious. It comes in different kinds of spices ranging from ginger, pepper and onions. The snack is suitable for tea breaks during seminars,

conferences and workshops. For bookings and distributorship within and outside Ibadan, kindly contact the office of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs at the Agriserve building, BIP axis in IITA or call; Dare 07038587093

Victoria 07034319553

Evelyn 08054096374

Ext 2995

Or send an e-mail to

IITA-Agripreneur@cgiar.org



Writers/Contributors: Michael Nathaniel, Lamidi Funmilola, Adenmosun Adetola, Adefioye Adedayo, **Layout/design** Adefioye Adedayo

This newsletter is produced by IITA Youth Agripreneurs in Ibadan

Editors: Godwin Atser (g.atser@cgiar.org); and Osunde Timilehin (t.osunde@cgiar.org)