



# IITA

## Youth Agripreneurs

*Agriculture is the future*

5th Issue May 2014

## IITA Youth Agripreneurs will give answers to research questions



*Young Agripreneurs at the retreat in Ibadan.*

IITA Director General, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, has said that the IITA Youth-in-Agribusiness model aims at adopting a scientific approach to tackling youth unemployment and generating income through agribusiness.

According to him, the initiative would help provide answers to certain research questions that would in turn proffer an appropriate methodology for youth empowerment.

The Director General threw more

light on the future of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) during the retreat held on 16 and 17 April 2014 at the Conference Center in IITA, Ibadan. The retreat was attended by several senior members of staff and scientists of the Institute.

Dr Sanginga, in his presentation, gave an overview of IYA's formation and achievements over the past 20 months, outlining some of the lessons learned in the course of the group's

existence. He also pointed out IYA's vision, goals, and outcomes and the approach that would be embraced for accomplishing them. The IITA Director General shed light on the organogram of IYA, saying that the new structure of the organization was strategic in responding to imminent tasks and responsibilities. He also mentioned some resource mobilization activities in the pipeline for the group.

Dr Adebayo Abass, Coordinator, Cassava Value Chain, in his presentation on "Enhancing the competitiveness of high quality cassava flour (HQCF) value chain in Nigeria," highlighted various entry-points for youths in the cassava value chain including cassava production, weed management, various forms of processing and value-addition activities, as well as distribution. He announced that the IITA station in Tanzania has been able to assemble youths and efforts were ongoing to engage them productively in agribusiness.

Time was given for reactions from the participants in the retreat where questions were raised and answered, and feedback was welcomed. There were a couple of break-out and plenary sessions—which continued the following day—where the activities of the various arms and units of IYA were appraised and reviewed.

The retreat ended on a good note with the adoption of a work plan for the group, signaling a new year in the IYA calendar.

### A young agripreneur learns how to use a tractor.





# IYA diversifies to fish and vegetable production

To exploit various opportunities that abound in agriculture, IYA has now diversified into vegetable production and aquaculture, with plans of going into processing of the latter. About 20 different varieties of vegetable seeds have been supplied for planting with six of those already harvested and currently on sale, while the remaining varieties will be sold before the year runs out.

Because of the nutritional value of fish, IYA has introduced catfish and tilapia to their commodities. Although, the construction of processing facilities such as the hatchery and

earthen pond is still ongoing, production is expected to commence fully as soon as the facilities are completed before the end of May 2014. The sales will range from fingerlings to juveniles of different sizes and weights and processing will begin by the end of September this year.



*Vegetable production*

## Creating jobs for youth through agribusiness

Stakeholders in the agricultural sector met in Bukavu, South-Kivu Province, DR Congo on Saturday, 5 April, in a conference to brainstorm on how to create jobs for youths through agribusiness.

The conference was attended by over 350 people among whom were representatives of government parastatals, NGOs, university staff and students, well-wishers, and other invited guests. The theme for the conference was: "Creating jobs for youth through agribusiness".

IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneur Coordinator, Eric Sika, gave an overview of the unemployment situation in Africa, its negative toll—as experienced in various African countries—and the opportunity that exists with the continent's growing youth population. He said that Africa's unemployed youth could pose a threat to society but with appropriate investment in them, their energy, creativity, and talent could be positively harnessed. He also gave a summary on IKYA's formation, its journey so far, and the group's current activities.

In his opening speech, His Excellency, the Governor of South-Kivu Province, Gov. Marcelin Chishambo, expressed his delight at the initiative in DR Congo. He stated that the country's present dependence on minerals as its major source of foreign exchange was "unhealthy" considering that such resources were exhaustible. He said that with the country's vast land area and active (young) population, it was deplorable that it still imports food worth about US\$1.3 billion annually. He noted that such a large amount could be diverted to the development of the country through investment in education, health, and infrastructure. He reiterated that through agriculture, youths could become employers of labor rather than remaining as job seekers, and promised to support the group.

Congolese diplomat, Madame Solange Bagula, in a keynote address commended the creation of the group and remarked that the initiative was indeed timely, coinciding with the government's efforts to bring about development. She stated that such development would reduce the rate of emigration of citizens from the country in search of better opportunities,

as is currently experienced in some European countries. She called on the educated young generation to bring to the table all the new technologies and best-bet practices which science and research had made available, and advocated for the provision of agricultural colleges by the government, as it would prepare young people for productive engagement in the sector, since the responsibility of future food security lies on them.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Officer-in-Charge, IITA-Kalambo station, Dr Chris Okafor said the participation and involvement of young people in agribusiness would lead to the country's success.

IITA-SARD SC Cassava Specialist, Dr Marie Yomeni gave a presentation on "Bringing young people into agriculture through agribusiness". She highlighted poor access to markets, extension services and agricultural credit; lack of direct government support; an unattractive living and working environment especially for youth living in rural areas; and the issue of the negative perception of agriculture by young people, as major hindrances to their involvement in the sector. She recommended that stakeholders articulate a new vision of agriculture that can be attractive to young people and align with their aspirations and interests. "Only then can the rewards of agriculture—like improved productivity, reduced food prices, increased income, and creation of jobs—be reaped," she added.

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA), the archetype of the youth-in-agribusiness initiative, sent delegates from Ibadan, Nigeria, to give support to the IKYA team. IYA representative Ajibola Olaniyi shared with the audience IYA's experiences and achievements in Nigeria, underscoring the potential for success in DRC and other parts of Africa.



*Young agripreneurs in DR Congo.*

## IITA Youth Agripreneurs launch soybean processing center



*DG Sanginga inspecting the soybean processing facilities*

IYA has launched a processing center for soybean, one of IITA's mandate crops. "IYA has, in only about 2 years of existence, delivered on its promise to process and basically add value to our fresh harvest from the fields; and this is lovely," DG Nternaya Sanginga said.

Since its inception in 2013, IYA has operated from its office complex in the IITA premises. Opposite IYA's office, a structure managed by the Crop Utility Unit houses different processing machines which were scarcely used. Efforts were made to revive activities there. Staff from the Facilities Management Services and the Crop Utilization Unit of IITA worked tirelessly after an initial assessment visit by the DG and IYA members on 30 April to ensure that the derelict facilities could start functioning straightaway. Repairs were made on broken-down equipment

and a general renovation of the building was undertaken. The adjacent wing occupied by AfricaRice was demarcated to make room for a possible extension of the Processing Center.

On Friday, 2 May, the first soymilk product was enjoyed by those



*DG Sanginga takes a tour of the soybean processing facility.*

responsible for the rehabilitation and by other guests. An expansion in the capacity of the Center is currently being explored as several income-generating options have already been identified. IYA would be the project executors, overseeing production and the marketing of the products.

Aside from the commercial gain, another angle worthy of note is the tremendous health benefits that soybean and its by-products offer to consumers. Soybean is also called a "miracle crop" because of its very high nutritive value, particularly protein. It also serves as an immune booster that ultimately improves quality and effective performance.

The Soybean Processing Center is expected to go into full operation in the coming weeks, with products ranging from soymilk to tidbits, and with IITA and the University College Hospital (UCH) in Ibadan as clients.



*Dr Sanginga enjoying soymilk at the Processing Center.*

## Agripreneurs benefit from Web 2.0 training

Lamidi Funmilola and Adefoye Adedayo, IYA members, benefited from the workshop organized by the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) in collaboration with Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State, Nigeria from 7 and 11 April.

Web 2.0 is a second generation web development and web design tool for facilitating communication and information sharing.

Participants were trained on selective access to information using Google Alerts and RSS feeds, remote collaboration using Dropbox, Google Drive, and Wikis, online conversations and publishing using blogs and social networking for professionals, and use of Google suites/tools to collect, transfer, and share information on day-to-day activities in the business industry.

During the workshop, participants were able to establish communication



*IYA members in photo at Web 2.0 training*

networks with the FADAMA project in the South West, YPARD (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development), and other youth

groups.

Certificates were distributed to the participants by Bowen University's Vice Chancellor, Prof Matthews A. Ojo.



# Youth agripreneurs speak about their experience

The IITA Youth Agripreneurs was initiated 20 months ago as a pilot program. Members of the group share their experiences in the project so far.



Bello Oluwatobi

## My take on agriculture

Opportunities in agriculture can reduce poverty and empower a growing population. Agriculture has untapped potential to create jobs, both directly and indirectly. To attract young people, agriculture will need to be more dynamic and appealing than it is now, and young people will need to view the sector more positively than they do now. This is where the IITA Youth Agripreneur project is making a difference. The project is about changing mindsets and supporting the capacity development of youths which prepares them to take advantage of the opportunities in the sector. It has been reported that in Nigeria today over 65% of the population derive its income from livestock rearing, crop husbandry, forestry, or fishing. Agriculture has many arms which allow people to specialize and gain employment in those areas. Some branches of agriculture include Agronomy, Soil science, Animal science, Agricultural engineering, Agricultural economics, Agricultural extension education, Home economics, Horticulture, Forestry, Fisheries, and Veterinary medicine. Agriculture graduates can be gainfully employed in banks, agricultural research institutes, schools, universities, private farms, the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance

Corporation, local, state/federal departments /Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Development Programs (ADPS), and above all, can be self employed. Self-employed graduates can earn their income from livestock enterprises, crop production, or function as agricultural consultants.

## My experience so far in IYA

It has been an awesome opportunity being a member of IYA; it is a youth program for graduates created to encourage youth to go into agribusiness. It is a platform of learning where skills are developed at all levels. Through the scheme I have been exposed to different skills and opportunities and, most importantly, my theoretical experience has been put into practice thereby improving my practical and professional skills. I have also had a change of mindset towards agriculture as I now see it as a business and not just farming.

Since I joined the group I have no regrets. Among the skills I have acquired from this scheme are writing project/business proposals, processing food crops into different food products (value addition), leadership skills, organization and farm management, research, project/business budget development, and crop production and protection.



Atu Obinna



Obafemi Victoria

## Agriculture as an avenue to empower women and youths

Over the last 20 months in the IITA Youth Agripreneurs I have been actively involved in the production of cassava, maize, soybean, and plantain and banana sucker multiplication with IYA members both within and outside IITA. Initially, it was difficult for me to practice agriculture on a large scale, but my main motivation for studying and practicing agriculture was to be an entrepreneur because I wanted to create opportunities for many young people out there. I saw the endless opportunities that abound in agriculture and I felt this was the way to go. I understood after I joined the program that there are many arms of agriculture that I could delve into and still compete relatively well with my colleagues in other professions. I also saw agriculture as an avenue to empower women and youths with no jobs.

I am currently involved in the partnership and marketing arm of the scheme. Since I joined, I have carried out market surveys on our mandate crops. I have also engaged in sales of cassava, maize, soybean, and vegetables.

Furthermore, being in the IITA Youth Agripreneurs has taught me how to work with people from different backgrounds, making me understand their strengths and weaknesses and realizing that by team work we can move mountains. I also look forward to going for my MBA which will qualify me to be a marketing consultant in agriculture, as that will be one of my career landmarks.

I can boldly say that I am a testament to the fact that with good training, team work, and better working conditions, youths with little understanding or experience of agriculture can actively be engaged in the sector.

## Upcoming event

Engagement of Youth Entrepreneurship for Agricultural Transformation in Africa, 28-30 May 2014, IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria

# Profiles

## **Mushagalusa Namegabe Janvier**

I am a student in my second year of Engineering, at the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA) in the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

I joined the group IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs during the training of trainers on good agricultural practices of cassava to which a number of UEA final-year students were invited. This training was organized by the SARD-SC project through Dr Marie Yomeni Octavie, and from there I had the desire to do my internship in the SARD-SC project.

With this group I see my professional life improved through activities that we conduct on the ground and the different training that we receive and that will make us better persons.



Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs because of its objectives that fit with increasing food production. This group will train me on agribusiness and make me a stable person in my professional life.

## **Adewuyi Gbemisola**

I hold a BS degree in Mass Communication from Ajayi Crowther University in Oyo State. I joined IITA in December 2013

as a Youth Corper and worked at the Communication Office during the program. My major task then was to gather stories for the weekly Bulletin produced by the Communication Office. After a year of the compulsory NYSC program, working with Katherine Lopez and the current Communication Officer for West Africa Godwin Atser, I was offered employment as a visitor's assistant in the same office under Abur Terngu.

Serving in IITA opened my eyes to agriculture. I was able to know the strengths and weaknesses attached to agriculture, its value chains, and its potentials to generate jobs and create wealth if properly explored. Agriculture is the only way through which we can reduce the rate of unemployment, poverty, and hunger. These are the main reasons I decided to quit my office job to major in agriculture and that actually led me to join this group of intelligent young farmers. I am totally convinced that agriculture is capable of providing a lot of jobs and filling millions of stomachs with nutritious meals.



## **Idowu, Ayodeji Peter**

I am a graduate of Olabisi Onabanjo University in Ago-Iwoye where I obtained a BS in Plant Science. Before I came to IITA, my dream was to become

a renowned Pharmacognosist. But during my National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), I had the opportunity to attend a number of seminars and listen to the IITA DG (Dr N. Sanginga) speaking on the possibilities that abound in agriculture and the involvement of youth particularly in agribusiness which is profitable if well practiced. This totally changed my views because as an Agripreneur, I'd not only improve the livelihoods of people through the production of improved quality seeds or even contribute to the nation's GDP but also become an employer of labor.

## **Kinja Byamungu**

Student in Agricultural Sciences from the Catholic University of Bukavu.

I joined the group IITA



I am Murhula **Banywesize Frederick**, a student of the Higher Institute of Rural Development (ISDR/Bukavu).

I did my advanced course in a CIALCA project, which allowed me to be in contact with Drs Paul Martin and Marie Octavie who took the initiative to create a group of young agronomists of Kalambo and I joined the group.

Through its objectives and activities, this group has allowed me to combine theory with practice, to be a model young entrepreneur.



## **Denoël Sibomana Mararo**

I studied Crop Production at the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA). I joined the group IITA Kalambo Youth

Agripreneurs last August 2013 after I was posted to IITA for my internship. Since I had been in the group I learn and continue to learn to become a good entrepreneur, so as to serve as an example for future generations and get them to become major agribusiness owners.

I hope to improve and change our daily lives through agribusiness.



I am **Mbeza Umba Tite**, an Agronomy student at the Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB).

Through my membership in the IITA Kalambo Youth

Agripreneurs initiated by Dr Marie Yomeni I hope to reconcile the theories learned into practice on the ground.

This group prepares me for my professional life with my participation in training and different agricultural activities that we carry out together as a team.

## **Philippe Kunene Mihigo**

I am an Agronomist, with a bachelor's degree from the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA).

After completing an internship at IITA-Kalambo, I had the chance to participate in a meeting of the IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs (IKYA). I committed to join the group after being told about the group's goals. I enjoy working actively in the group, given its objectives (entrepreneurship in agriculture). I invite our friends to join us in pursuit of these goals.





**Molima Djabu Yolande**

I joined the IITA Kalambo Agripreneurs through an elder who sensitized us about the issues faced by youth in agriculture and our importance in overcoming challenges that affect development in our country. We hope that through our activities we will realize that we are able to do more in our professional lives focusing on entrepreneurship.



of entrepreneurship with the group's activities to improve my personal abilities, to transfer them to future generations.

**Patrick Kongolo**

A student at the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA), joined the IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs during my internship. IITA, through Dr Marie Yomeni, offered me a thesis topic under the SARDC-SC project. I hope this initiative will have a positive impact on my intellectual development in particular and life in general. It has also allowed me to expand my knowledge in agronomy and meet many IITA scientists.



towards positive development in society, with agriculture as a basic tool through research and exploration of ideas, considering the level of societal challenges that need an urgent solution.

**Augustin Muzindusi Mugenga**

I am an agronomist from the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA) and an effective member of IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs. I joined the group when I was doing my internship at Kalambo, on 10 July 2013 at a meeting held in Kalambo by Dr Marie Yomeni on the importance of cassava in DRC where I found a great opportunity for my future.



**Adesanya Omotomiwa**

I am a graduate of Plant Physiology and Crop Production and have always believed in agriculture and its



impact on the economy. The youth in agribusiness initiative of IITA is the future and I am happy to be part of its inception. As one of the members of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs, I have learned to multitask effectively, knowing also that more awesome experiences await me.

**Bwanamuzuri Wasanga Texa**

Agronomist, BSc holder in Crop Production from the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA). I joined the group of the IITA-Kalambo



Youth Agripreneurs when I was doing my internship at IITA/Kalambo. I was so much interested in the group project; this led me to join the group for the agricultural expertise. Entering the group was for me a great joy because of the training, seminars, and studies carried out by the group.



**Odusanya Oludare Afolabi**

I am a B. Agric. graduate of Plant Physiology and Crop Production from the Federal University of Agriculture,

Abeokuta.

Giving hope to Nigerian youths through agriculture has been a life-long dream, and my stay in IITA has given me with great insights and opportunities into its mission of achieving of a hunger-free nation. I am convinced that the IITA Youth Agripreneurs enterprise is the place to be for its realization.

I am **Gracia Kahasha**, a final year student of Economics at the Evangelical University in Africa. I joined the group in October 2013 during my second year of master's studies.



Joining the group was an opportunity for me to improve my knowledge and learn more of agriculture in all its dimensions (trials implementation, inoculation, harvest operations, market activities, etc.).

My vision of joining the group is to be able to reconcile the concepts

**Ibironke Ifedayo Abraham**

A graduate of Crop Science from Ekiti State University (EKSU).

My ambition is to make my environment a better place for the immediate and next generation by contributing my quota



**Cirhuza Mirali Jackson,**

A graduate of Soil sciences from the Catholic University of Bukavu. With my involvement in the group, I have been able to set up



**Sarah Mudahama**

I am a student at the Evangelical University in Africa and intern in the SARD-SC project. I joined the IITA-Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs group when I attended a training of trainers seminar on best agricultural practices for cassava production. Through this group, I hope to create jobs.



the Catholic University of Bukavu. As a member of the IITA/ Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs, this project gives me hope.



**Pascaline M**  
I am a student in Plant Science at the Evangelical University in Africa, Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. This group will help me to become self reliant.



The youth in agribusiness scheme (IYA) initiated by IITA has offered me a lifetime opportunity to acquire all the necessary skills and knowledge needed, bringing my dream to reality.



**Arnold Am**  
I am a student at the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA), Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. This project will help me realize my dreams.



**Jérôme Mulumbu Nyembo**  
I am an Agronomist, BSc holder from the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA). I hope this group will strengthen

my professional skills on farming techniques through the activities that it organizes.

**Arsène Kashemwa Ombeni**  
I hold a degree in crop production from the Evangelical University in Africa. I am happy to be a member of the group because it offers me a good framework to reconcile theory with professional practice. I am convinced that in the future we will be employers of labor.



**Luc Nkongolo**  
I am a student at the Evangelical University in Africa in the second grade of engineering, and an intern in the SARD-SC project. I joined the group to support actions to maximize the production of crops and create jobs.



**Oyesiji Oluwafunmilayo**

I am a graduate of Computer Science from Tai Solarin University of Education, Ogun State. I was posted to IITA for my National Youth Service and worked with IT Systems & Application for one year. I joined the Youth Agripreneurs of IITA in March 2014. The Youth in Agribusiness Scheme (IYA) has been challenging and at the same time motivating. It has opened my eyes to so many things and given me opportunities to add value to the economy through my involvement in the provision of quality food/seeds to the nation. I can boldly say I am fulfilled.



**Nankafu Migabo Rosette**, I am a graduate of Agronomy, from the Catholic University of Bukavu. I hope that through this project I will have many opportunities to empower myself.



**Balemba Kashangabuye Patrick**

I am an agronomist from the Evangelical University in Africa. I was inspired by what Dr Marie Octavie said: "We can do something great through the contribution of everyone". This project will build my capacity to become a trainer.



**Benjamin Munganga**

I hold a Degree in Engineering, Department of Soil Science from





**Owoeye Molayo**

I am a graduate of Agricultural Science from the University of Ilorin. I was posted to IITA for my NYSC after which I got to know about the IITA Youth

Agripreneurs. My goal and dream of impacting lives through agriculture and also becoming someone relevant actually motivated me to join this group. My experience so far has been awesome because I've met with various dignitaries and also my mindset about business in agriculture has been widened.

**Billy B**

I am a student at the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA) and an intern in the SARD-SC project. I joined the group IKYA through one of its members who informed me of the objectives of the group, which include agricultural production and marketing.



**Michel Kulemba Kashangabuye**

A BSc holder in the plant sciences department of the Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB). IKYA is my group and thanks to it.

Through this initiative, we will be able to tackle present challenges and those of the future without fear.

Long live IIKYA and IITA Kalambo!



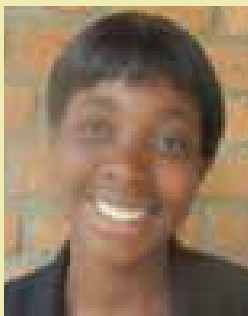
**Bahati Judith** I'm a finalist in



agronomy at the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA), and an intern in the SARD-SC project. This initiative will help me to defend what I have studied at the university.

**Mukuzo Haut'm Nathalie**, a student

from Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB). As a member of IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs (IKYA), I hope to be a better agripreneur and be able to train others.



**Noel Mulinganya**, I have a degree in agronomy from the Catholic University of Bukavu. I'm currently doing an MSc in Integrated Soil Fertility Management

at Kenyatta University in Nairobi/ Kenya. I joined the IITA-Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs group to learn from others to become a successful agripreneur. My vision is to transform all my knowledge into a profitable source of income for the members of our group in particular and the youth in general.



**Nweke-Okoh Murphy Leonard**

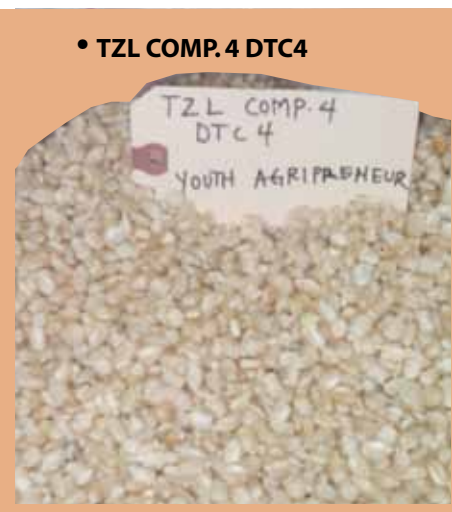
A graduate of Plant Physiology and Crop Protection, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. I had my NYSC with the Cassava Breeding Unit of IITA. After my service year, I joined the IITA Youth Agripreneurs because of my strong passion for agriculture and seeing youth from different disciplines going into agriculture, trying to change people's orientation and perspective towards agriculture. In Nigeria, people think little of agriculture and believe mainly in oil and gas and professional courses such as medicine, pharmacy, law, but I don't think so. I believe anybody can make it through agriculture.



**Maize for sale**



• ACR 91 SUWAN I



• TZL COMP.4 DTC4



• IWD C2 SYN F2