



# IITA

## Youth Agripreneurs

*Agriculture is the future*

Special Issue December 2015

## IITA and IYA celebrate with AfDB President, Dr Adesina

The Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga and IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) on Saturday, December 12, joined other well-wishers to celebrate with Dr Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), for the honorary doctorate degree of science (D.Sc Honoris Causa) conferred on him by Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Osun state.

The award ceremony, which took place at the amphitheatre, Oduduwa hall was in recognition of Dr Adesina's contribution to the development of science and research in Africa.

Amongst other people who were honoured by the institution were the Emir of Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, who became the 8th Chancellor of the University; Prof Jacob Kehinde Olupona, the Director, African and African American Studies at Harvard University, who bagged the honorary doctorate award of Letters (D.Litt); and Chief Alex Dudyemi, a barrister and solicitor of the Federal Supreme Court of Nigeria, who also bagged a Doctor of Business Management (DBM).



R-L; Alh Yahaya Abubakar, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, Mrs Oluyemisi Adesina, Prof Bamitale Omole, and Prof Julius Okojie

Responding on behalf of the awardees, Dr Adesina thanked the University for the foundation given to him that helped his life to achieve success. Reminiscing about his journey in life so far, which according to him, started at OAU in 1981, Dr Adesina said "the core values of education and character being imparted by the University is world class and cannot be compared to any other University in the world."

Dr Adesina urged the 2015 graduating PhD student of the institution to be of

good character and not forget the values imparted in them by their teachers. He stressed the need for them to preserve their integrity and that of the institution at all times, and urged them to go into the society and effect the necessary change needed for the society to develop.

"Go out, compete and win. Failure is not an option. We have faith in you, so rise up and shine. In the course of doing this, do not forget those who helped you along the way especially your parents and teachers. Their reward should no longer be in heaven," he said.

Also at the ceremony, the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Prof Julius Okojie, who represented President Muhammadu Buhari, congratulated the awardees and the graduating students.

He disclosed that the government had mapped out strategies to review agricultural policies that would provide employment for youths. The President said with the dwindling price of crude oil, agriculture should become the backbone of the economy. He added that there would be development of farm imple-



Dr Adesina being decorated by the Chancellor, Alh Yahaya Abubakar; and the VC, Prof Bamitale Omole

ments that would make agriculture attractive to youths and also help farmers.

The Vice Chancellor of OAU, Prof Bamitale Omole said the institution would not compromise the standard of education being given to students. On the achievements of the institution, Prof Omole stated that about 5000 students graduated this year with about 136 conferred with PhD. Out of the 5000 students, 45 gradu-

ated with first class honours.

It will be recalled that Dr Adesina, an alumni of the University, also graduated from the department of Agricultural Economics with a first class honours in 1981. He was the first student to be awarded this distinction by the university.

Some officials of the African Development Bank were also present at the

event to felicitate with Dr Adesina.

Dr Adesina will again receive an honorary award on Saturday 19 December at the Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba.

On their part, the youth agripreneurs made use of the opportunity to showcase their products at an exhibition stand in the University during the event.

## Photo gallery: Honorary Doctorate Degree Award to Dr Adesina at OAU



L-R: Minister for Agriculture, Audu Ogbeh; and Deputy Governor of Osun State, Mrs Titi Laoye-Tomori



R-L: Mrs Olujemisi Adesina, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, and Dr Chris Akem



L-R: Mrs Adesina, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, and Mrs Bisi Fayemi



R-L: The awardees, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, Prof Jacob Olupona, and Chief Alex Duduyemi



IITA Youth Agripreneurs with officials of African Development Bank (AfDB)



Dr Adesina and the Ooni of Ife, Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi



L-R: Dr Adesina and the Minister of Agriculture, Audu Ogbeh



Dr Adesina at IYA's exhibition stand



L-R: Dr Sangina and Dr Adesina

## Who is Akinwumi Adesina?

Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina is the 8th elected President of the African Development Bank Group. He was elected to the position on May 28, 2015 by the Bank's Board of Governors at its annual meetings in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

He took office at the Bank's headquarters in Abidjan on September 1, 2015 and will serve an initial five-year term. Adesina, 55, is a distinguished development economist and agricultural development expert with 25 years of international experience. He is the first Nigerian to serve as President of the AfDB.

Adesina served as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development from 2011 to 2015, during which he implemented bold policy reforms in the fertilizer sector and pursued innovative agricultural investment programs to expand opportunities for the private sector.

He was previously Vice-President (Policy and Partnerships) of the Alliance for

a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He was also Associate Director (Food Security) at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where he worked for a decade (1998-2008) in senior leadership positions, including as Regional Office Director and Representative for Southern Africa.

Adesina was Principal Economist and Social Science Research Coordinator for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Principal Economist and Coordinator of the West Africa Rice Economics Task Force at the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) and an Assistant Principal Economist at the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). From 2008 to 2010, Adesina was the President of the African Association of Agricultural Economists.

Adesina has received a number of global awards for his leadership and work in agriculture. In 2010, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon ap-

pointed him as one of 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals, along with Bill Gates, the Spanish Prime Minister, and the President of Rwanda. He was named Person of the Year by Forbes Africa magazine in 2013.

Adesina earned a first-class honours Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ife, Nigeria in 1981. In 1988 he completed a PhD in Agricultural Economics at Purdue University in the United States, where he won the Outstanding PhD Thesis Award for his research work. He also won the prestigious Rockefeller Foundation Social Science Post-Doctoral Fellowship in 1988, which launched his international career in global agricultural development.

Born on February 6, 1960, Adesina speaks fluent French and English.

Source: African Development Bank (AfDB)



# IITA Youth Agripreneurs

*congratulates*

## **Dr Akinwumi Adesina**

IITA Youth Agripreneurs felicitates with our selfless, hardworking, dedicated, trustworthy, and visionary father, mentor and leader, Dr Akinwumi Adesina (President, African Development Bank, AfDB) on your conferment of Honorary Doctorate Degree of Science (D.Sc, Honoris Causa) by your alma mater, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

You have set your goals right and achieved all through systematic approach. The award is a fitting recognition of the zeal and intelligence you exhibit towards the development of Nigeria and the African continent as a whole.

We say congratulations for a well-deserved honour. Thank you Sir for being a pillar of hope for many youths like us and for rescuing Africa out of poverty.



*Courtesy: IITA Youth Agripreneurs*