



IITA

Youth Agripreneurs

Agriculture is the future

Special Issue June 2015



“Poverty cannot be a comparative advantage of Africa. So we have to create lots of wealth and lift hundreds and millions of Africans out of poverty... And agriculture is the key to do this.”

I am committed to ensuring that Africa feeds itself, says AfDB President-elect, Adesina



L-R; Mrs Charlotte Sanginga, Mrs Yemisi Adesina, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, Mr Gerome Masankisi and Dr John Ulimwengu

The President-elect of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina on 19 June 2015 paid a courtesy visit to the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) at their new office in the Agriserve Building in IITA Ibadan.

Dr Adesina's visit which was the first after his election as the president of the AfDB in May was a mark of support and encouragement to the youth.

In his address, Dr Adesina urged the youth to make use of the opportunities given to them by the Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga and the Institute. He added that youth have the wherewithal to unlock the wealth in the soil.

His words, "There are lots of inequalities in the world today and except people are given opportunities like some of us, they die in poverty. So grab and make use of the opportunity given to you."

Referring to the youth as future leaders as well as future millionaires and billionaires of Africa, Dr Adesina stressed that if the resources made available to

them can be effectively utilized, then they would be the champions to take Africa out of poverty.

Dr Adesina who highlighted the great potential deposited in Africa expressed displeasure on the huge amount of money used by African countries to import food into the continent.

"No matter how your neighbor loves you, he cannot send your child to school. No matter how another country loves you, it cannot feed you all. Africa spends about 35 billion dollars to import food in a year. So you are the ones to feed this nation. You are young farmers who have seen agriculture not as a way of life but as a business and who will bring in the necessary changes needed to change the face of the sector. Agriculture is a wealth creating sector, so you are not making a mistake by embracing it," he stated.

Speaking about his vision to lift Africa out of poverty, Dr Adesina stated that poverty cannot continue to be a comparative advantage of Africa. He said his tenure as the president of

AfDB would be devoted to initiatives that would create wealth for the continent.

His words, "I am committed to ensuring that Africa feeds itself. Africa must be great. We cannot continue to be a continent where people will say, 'let's go there and see poverty.' Poverty will never become a natural endowment of Africa. Our rural areas will be emancipated," he added.

He promised his continuous support to the youth and to showcase them to the world.

"Take the baton passed unto you, run with all you've got because you have no option than to succeed, and I will be here to support you. I will expose you to the world, I will be back bringing the African leaders to see you. I am thrilled at what you do and I am sure you will do me, IITA and Africa proud," he said.

Dr Adesina was in company of his wife Mrs Yemisi Adesina, the Director General of IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga and his wife, Mrs Charlotte Sanginga.



IITA Youth Agripreneurs welcoming AfDB president-elect, Dr Adesina

Photo gallery: Visit of President-elect, AfDB, Dr Akinwumi Adesina



R-L: IITA DG, Dr Sanginga welcoming AfDB President -elect Dr Adesina



L-R: Dr Sanginga, Mrs Yemisi Adesina, Mr Gerome Kamwanga Masankisi (DRC), Dr Adesina, Dr John Ulimwengu, and Mrs Sanginga

At the IYA fish ponds



Dr Adesina and IITA Youth Agripreneurs flying IYA's newly acquired INSPIRE 1 drone



Dr Adesina (second right) with IITA Youth Agripreneurs: (L-R) Adefoye Adedayo, Adesanya Tomiwa, Adenmoun Adetola, and Nweke-Oko-Murphy (far right) at IYA's fish pond.



Dr Adesina feeding the fish



R-L: Dr Adesina and Mrs Sangina tastes tidbit (IYA's new snack)



Dr Adesina addressing the youth



Dr Adesina at the processing centre



Dr Adesina and his wife display one of the IYA's publication



Dr Adesina with the first set of Agripreneurs (in lemon shirt) and second set of Agripreneurs (in blue shirt)



Dr Adesina signing IYA's visitor's book while an agripreneur Funmi Lamidi looks on



Dr Adesina with IITA Youth Agripreneurs

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