

## Celebrating our father, mentor.....

The news of Dr Nteranya Sanginga's acceptance to steer the leadership of IITA for another five years filtered in on the evening of Thursday, 28 July 2016.

Cramer Jenny who on behalf of the members of the board broke the news to the staff of IITA at exactly 7.22 pm said "IITA has undergone a period of unprecedented growth in its science capacity under Sanginga's first five years of leadership. The Board is looking forward to working with the Director General on the many new initiatives underway that will strengthen IITA's position as the leading agricultural research institute to address the problems of hunger and poverty in Africa."

The message from the board which came in as a relief to many of the staff in IITA was an appropriate response to the curiosity on the tenure extension of the Director General.

As early as 6 am, many messages poured in congratulating the board for their decision to extend the tenure of the DG. Many also thanked Dr Sanginga for accepting the offer of the members of the board to continue the immeasurable transformation witnessed in the history

of the institution since inception 50 years ago. Before the news, there had been speculations and uncertainty on the acceptance of the offer by Dr Sanginga for the extension of his tenure as the Director General of IITA.

Dr Nteranya Sanginga assumed office as the Director General of IITA in November 2011 and IITA under his leadership has recorded a lot of breakthrough in science, research, innovation, staff welfare, finance, infrastructures, and most importantly food security and job creation for the youth in the agricultural sector.

His vision of creating job and wealth for the youth in the sector through the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) initiative has spread beyond the walls of IITA in Nigeria to a continental program which is being adopted by 31 countries in Africa.

We, the future billionaires of Africa-IITA Youth Agripreneurs join the staff and management of IITA in celebrating our father and mentor for the successful completion of his first term in office as the DG of IITA and we wish him another 5 years of greater breakthrough in his vision to make Africa the food basket of the world.



*Dr Nteranya Sanginga  
Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture*