



# IITA

## Youth Agripreneurs

*Agriculture is the future*

March 2017 Issue 24

## IITA has laid the foundation for national development



Minister of Agricultural and Rural Development (Nigeria), Chief Audu Ogbeh (2nd from left) commissioning the IITA Youth Training Centre

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh has stated that IITA has contributed immensely to the development of agriculture and also laid the foundation for increasing the nation's food production through its youth in agribusiness model.

The Minister stated this during the commissioning of IITA's Youth Training centre in Kubwa, Abuja on Monday, March.

Sharing the experiences gained through the IITA Youth Agripreneurs model, the IYA team in Abuja took turns to express their desire in venturing into full time agribusiness after the trainings provided by the model.

Most of them relayed how the model had widened their horizon and exposed them to the opportunities available along the agricultural value chain. The youths stated that agriculture had become the new 'oil sector' where they could earn decent incomes, create wealth and jobs for other teeming unemployed youths like them. They added that the model taught them how to invest a dollar and make 5

dollars through the various business management trainings. Through these trainings, they stressed that they have developed their business plans and were ready to establish a functional agribusiness enterprise that would

enable them become employers of labour. Impressed by the testimonies, achievements, zeal, and passion of the young generation of farmers bred by IITA, the Minister promised to send some of the Agripreneurs on training to developed countries to enhance their skills on the modern systems of farming.

"This flag-off is one of the most successful outings of mine since I came into office. The simple reason is because I can witness that you are in this business, you like it and you have discovered that this is where you should be. We would organize overseas trips for you to enhance your acquired knowledge on agriculture", he said.

Speaking on behalf of the Director General of IITA, the Head of IITA, Abuja Station, Dr Gbassey Tarawali said the IYA model had been replicated in several other parts of Nigeria and Africa. The foundation of the commissioned youth training center was laid in March 2015 by the former Minister of Agriculture, Dr Akinwumi Adesina who is now the President of the African Development

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Chief Audu Ogbeh visits the exhibition stand of the youth agripreneurs in Abuja



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Bank (AfDB). The building is a replica of the Agriserve building in Ibadan. It has a training room with a sitting capacity of 40 persons, a conference hall with a sitting capacity of 60-80 people, a boardroom and 16 project staff offices.

## IITA Youth Agripreneurs receives additional training



A training session facilitated by Mrs Adesola of L.A. Consult

The training was to further enhance the skills of IITA Youth Agripreneurs as they develop bankable business plans. Ekimiks Nigeria Limited in partnership with IITA organized an 8-day workshop for agripreneurs in Ibadan between 15-24 February.

The workshop which was the second phase of the training that took place in October 2016 was part of efforts to better equip the youths ahead of the ENABLE Youth Program which is set to kick-off in 2017. During the first phase of the training, agripreneurs had developed

25 business plans in clusters along the agricultural value chains to pitch their businesses for funding.

The business plans were based on ICT, Mechanization, Logistics and storage, maize, cassava, tomatoes, fish, ram fattening, value addition etc.

The second phase gave the youths an opportunity to put professional touches to their businesses, relate with experts from one of the best Business schools in Africa- Lagos Business School in Nigeria, L.A. Consult and seasoned bankers

who in the past had offered credit facilities to intending entrepreneurs in Nigeria.

Agripreneurs who were gathered from Borno, Kano, Abuja, Onne and DR Congo, were taken round practical sessions on market analysis, risk management in businesses, financial plans, and writing of executive summaries, among others.

They were also taught the tactics behind the success of agribusiness enterprises.

With the knowledge gathered, the youths were able to put final

professional touches to their business plans and also presented the business plans to the seasoned bankers for review.

The ENABLE Youth Program will allow agripreneurs to develop business plans along the agricultural value chain and secure loans at reasonable interest rates from banks to float their businesses.

The establishment of the independent agribusiness enterprise is part of the expected outcomes of the IYA model for creating jobs for other unemployed youth.

## Sudan launch ENABLE Youth Program



Dr Victor Manyong (2nd from left) with other stakeholders during the launching

In a bid to join the league of other African countries in productively engaging youths in agriculture, the Sudanese government on 2nd March launched the ENABLE Youth Program in the country. The program which was launched in

Khartoum had representatives of the African Development Bank (AfDB), IITA, IYA, the government of the country and other stakeholders in attendance. Speaking on the importance of the program, the State Minister of

Agriculture and Forest, Hon. Sabri Al-Daw Bakhit said many developed countries of the world were able to attain a high level of economic stability because they paid a lot of attention to their agricultural sector. He said Sudan was also on the verge of attaining economic stability and greatness because it would provide

the necessary support for the ENABLE Youth Program to thrive in the country.

He appreciated the AfDB for funding the program and also commended IITA for introducing the Youth -in-

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Agriculture initiative- IYA. He said the initiative would help youths to engage in agriculture on a business scale and added that the country would however need the technical assistance of IITA in the implementation of the program.

AfDB's Country Manager, Dr. Abdul Kamara assured the government of the Bank's continued support to Sudan's development agenda. He said the ENABLE Youth Program as introduced by the Bank in the country would diversify the country's economy from oil to agriculture. He added that the ENABLE Youth Sudan Program was one of the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy (2016–2025) flagships aimed at bringing African youth into agriculture and agribusiness. The program according to him will provide the youth in the country an opportunity to create decent employment, and wealth in the agricultural sector.

IITA Regional Director for East Africa, Dr Victor Manyong, who represented IITA at the launching, thanked the bank for

funding the program. He reaffirmed IITA's commitment to drive the ENABLE Youth Program across Africa. He also added that IITA had recorded success from its Youth-in-Agribusiness model- IYA and was ready to share the experience with other African countries including Sudan.

Dr. Manyong pointed out that the framework of the ENABLE Youth Sudan was based on the IITA Youth Agripreneurs model, which started in Nigeria in 2012 and which had since been replicated in several African countries. According to him, IITA will provide technical assistance and backstopping services to the program implementation team.

The AfDB Board approved the ENABLE Youth program on 28 November 28, 2016 with total funding estimated at US \$32.3 million. ENABLE Youth Sudan Program is one of AfDB's ENABLE Youth Initiatives under the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy (2016 – 2025). The objective of the program is to create business opportunities and decent employment for young women and men along

priority agricultural value chains in Sudan. The program is expected to train and empower 2,000 agricultural entrepreneurs (Agripreneurs) in Youth Agri-Business Incubation Centers (YABICs) in five states in the country.

Each of these Agripreneurs is expected to employ five other support workers, generating about 10,000 jobs (including about 6,000 for young women) in total over the period of first 5 years of the program.

To ensure the program runs properly, the team spent time reviewing the workplans, getting acquainted with the management and implementation roles of each partner.

The team also paid a courtesy visit to one of the proposed pilot site of the program in Abu Halima, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MOAF) and Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP). Series of discussions were also held with the host institution- ICARDA Sudan Office.

## Honorary award: IYA felicitates with AfDB-President



*Dr Akinwumi Adesina (2nd from right) being decorated by the Vice Chancellor-FUTA, Professor Adebisi Daramola (far right)*

The Director General of IITA and the IITA Youth Agripreneurs joined other well-wishers to felicitate with the President of the African development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, on Saturday, 18 March for the honorary doctorate degree of science (D.Sc Honoris Causa) conferred on him by the Federal

University of Technology Akure (FUTA) in Ondo State. The award was in recognition of Dr Adesina's contribution to the development of science and research in Africa. Appreciating the University for the well thought honour, Dr Adesina promised not to relent in his effort in impacting on the younger generation

to ensure that they also contribute to the development of the country and continent at large.

He urged the graduating students 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 to develop the society.

"We believe in you. Failure is not an option for 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", he said.

Also admonishing the graduands to be of good values, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof Adebisi Daramola affirmed that the institution would not compromise the standard of education and research carried out by the institution.

The Governor of Ondo State, Rotimi Akeredolu also congratulated the students and the institution for the milestones recorded since inception.



## IKYA diversifies into fresh fruit production



IKYA team working on the new produce

The IITA Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs have diversified into the production of fruit juice in the South Kivu Province.

The fresh fruit juice known as Maracuja is produced from passion fruit which is high in vitamin C and beta-carotene.

The nutritional value and quality control of the product was assessed by Dr Patchimaporn, an IITA scientist who also assisted with training the team on the production of the product. Starting on a scale of 260 bottles per week, the team experienced shortage in the circulation



Maracuja

of the juice at the IKYA sales point in town due to high demand for the fresh juice in South Kivu market.

To address this, IKYA identified the need to acquire machines that can produce the fresh juice on a large scale. Some of the trainees undergoing the incubation program with the group identified the economic opportunity of venturing into the business and had partnered with IKYA to produce on a large scale while IKYA carries out quality control on the juice. Through this partnership, the quantity of Maracuja produced increased from 260 to 600 bottles per week.

## IITA Zambia Youth Agripreneurs train 11 youths on cassava-based food production



The youth agripreneurs showcasing the finished products to the Deputy Director General, corporate services, IITA, Hilde Koper (2nd from right)

To enhance the capacity of youths within some provinces in Zambia, the Zambia IITA Youth Agripreneurs (ZIYA) conducted training on cassava value

addition for 11 female ZIYA members at the IITA Southern Africa Research and Administration Hub (IITA-SARAH) campus in Kabangwe, Lusaka Province.

The training which took place from 6-16 March was conducted with support from the Support to Agricultural Research for Development of Strategic Crops in Africa (SARD-SC) project.

The 10-day hands-on course covered the various steps in preparing cassava-based food products – from roots preparation (cleaning, peeling, chipping, and drying) to processing and cooking/baking with focus on confectionaries such as biscuits, fritters, tidbits, and cupcakes.

The Deputy Director General, Corporate Services, Ms Hilda Koper who was on a familiarization visit to the IITA Southern hub advised the youths to create a business from the things learnt.

**Save this date**

**African Youth Agripreneurs Forum & Agri-Pitch Competition**

**April 25-26, 2017**



## Ekimiks CEO Visits IITA Abuja youths



CEO-Ekimiks Nigeria Limited Mr Tope Miriki addressing youth agripreneurs in Abuja

As a follow up to the 10-day business plan development training workshop held 15-24 February, the Chief Executive Officer of Ekimiks Nigeria

Limited, Mr Tope Miriki on 28 February, visited the IITA Youth Agripreneurs' office in Abuja. Mr Miriki who was on a backstopping visit encouraged the

youths to be more pro-active and finetune their draft business plans.

The creation of business opportunities for unemployed youths in the agricultural sector is at the center stage of an African wide initiative led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). In line with this vision, the IITA Abuja team who are working on 8 business plans along priority agribusiness value chain ranging from fishery to seed production, aggregation and processing, were appreciative of the gesture and the reassurance of boundless opportunities in agribusiness. Mr Miriki urged the youths to stay focus saying, "we have lost 18 years of agricultural inactivity, now is the time for a new generation of agribusiness moguls to arise".

## IYA in partnership with Stratadvance in broiler production



Agripreneurs during their visit to K.K farms in Ibadan

To meet the demand for poultry meat as a result of the recent ban on the importation of frozen chicken in Nigeria, the IITA Youth Agripreneurs have partnered with Stratadvance Inc. in the production of healthy broiler chickens

at the facility of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). The business, which is being managed by four members of the agripreneurs with support from the owner and Managing Director of Stratadvance, Dr Eric Koper,

provides live and dressed broilers for sale at discounted prices for its clients within IITA.

Starting with 357 day old chicks, the business has expanded to about 1,500 birds which are stocked per cycle.

The business, which would be operated within IITA premises till July 2017, will be registered as a Limited Liability Company and would then operate outside the premises of IITA. This is in line with the effort of the youths to run the business as an independent enterprise.

The poultry farm plans to include feed production, incubator and hatchery services, and would also diversify into training and research in partnership with IITA and ILRI. This would also create opportunities to look for partnership with other private sector providers of equipment, machinery and housing for co-marketing purposes. All these are aimed at generating additional revenue.

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