

**IITA****Youth Agripreneurs***Agriculture is the future*

BULLETIN

Issue 37 January, 2020

Highlights of IYA in 2019...

For IITA Youth Agripreneurs, 2020 is a year of bigger and daring agribusiness exploits. A lot of programmes have been lined up to get more youths actively and productively engaged in agriculture. The 37th edition of our

Newsletter is however dedicated to looking at some of our achievements and challenges in 2019. The year was very eventful; from Nigeria to the Republic of Benin, and all the way to Togo, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Cameroon,

Sudan, Madagascar, DR Congo, and Zambia, IYA was busy with agribusiness activities. The stories below highlight the great moments as well as the challenges faced by agripreneurs across the continent.

IYA Spin-offs get NAFDAC certifications



The Frotchery team presenting their re-branded product to Mrs Sanginga

Two spin-offs of IITA Youth Agripreneurs, Frotchery Farms Limited and Gracevine Agribusiness Limited secured the certification of Nigeria's food regulatory body- National Agency for Food & Drug, Administration

and Control (NAFDAC) in 2019. The certification, coming after three years of continuous application, will enable the two companies owned by IYA trained graduates to make their product available across the Nigerian market.

Frotchery Farms Limited is into the production of smoked catfish while Gracevine Venture produces beans and yam flour.

Another feat recorded in year 2019 by Frotchery Farms Limited was the re-branding of its product as well as the introduction of a new packaging of international standard. The cost of re-branding the product was facilitated through the support of an angel investor.



A close shot of the branded fish pack



CEO Gracevine ventures, Bose Idowu (2nd from right) with her staff.

Birth of another agribusiness enterprise



Joshua, 2nd from right with some of his staff

One of the highpoints of 2019 was the establishment of Joshidop Farms, a poultry farm owned by Joshua Adewale,

a former intern at the IITA Youth Agripreneurs. During his internship at the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA),

Joshua was known for his passion for planting and growing plantain and banana. He oversaw IYA's pilot enterprise for plantain and banana sucker multiplication, a venture that flourished under his supervision.

He was later transferred to the IITA station in Onne, Rivers State, to assist with the training of young people in plantain and banana farming. While he was at Onne, Joshua also participated in the establishment of the poultry enterprise for the incubation program at the station.

The Computer Science graduate then relocated to Ibadan to start his poultry business located at Katafa village, Onidundun in Akinyele,

Ibadan, Oyo state. He has an 8,000 capacity structure for brooding day old layer birds for sale to farmers.

Agripreneurs learn the hard way

Although 2019 was largely a successful year for many IYA spin-offs, some of the agripreneurs experienced the much talked about risks of entrepreneurship.

For David Adeiza, Victoria Okpachu, and Esther Nneji, owners of Agroved

Limited, a poultry enterprise located in Gwagwalada, Abuja; 5 March 2019 turned out a sad day when an early morning heavy rain wreaked havoc on their poultry structure. Over 700 birds were killed in the disaster. An agricultural insurance policy

would have mitigated their loss, but unfortunately, they had none. The good news, however, is that the trio have moved on after drawing lessons from the disaster and taking steps to address the risks involved in the business.



Agroved structure after the rainstorm



One of the partners, Esther, moving eggs from the pen

Visit of the Vice President of African Development Bank

One of the high-profile guests received by the IITA Youth Agripreneurs in 2019 was Jennifer Blanke, the Vice President, Agriculture, Human and Social Development of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Speaking during the visit, Ms Blanke expressed delight that young people who would rather not practice agriculture like their parents and grandparents did, were now excited about being agripreneurs - the new generation of entrepreneurs making a change in the agricultural sector.

Ms Blanke, who was accompanied by the Director of Agriculture and Agro-industry, Dr Martin Fregene, also interacted with some of the young people who were trained under the ENABLE-TAAT program and have gone ahead to become independent agribusiness owners.



L-R: Dr Chris Akem, Dr Martin Fregene, V.P Jennifer Blanke interacting with the Agripreneurs

Selection of youth and kick-off of ENABLE-Youth Cameroon program

The ENABLE Youth Cameroon (EYC) Program kicked off in 2019 with the implementation team successfully selecting 512 interns that participated in the program. The recruitment process resulted in the selection of 44 percent females, and 56 percent males based on their agribusiness aspirations and entrepreneurial skills.

The process which was carried out at different stages, started through the launch of a call for application by the Cameroonian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and subsequent announcements in national newspapers, social media, and recruitment platforms.

To meet the gender requirement of the program, 600 men and 400 women were shortlisted following a test to determine their agribusiness and entrepreneurial skills.

After that, a panel made up of representatives from IITA, the Agriculture Value Chain Development Project (AVCDP), Youth Agribusiness Incubation Center (YABIC), YABIC host institutions, and MINADER interviewed the candidates and came up with 512 finalists.



A cross section of the first batch of the selected Agripreneurs



Dr Cargele Masso lecturing the selected Agripreneurs during an orientation exercise

KHYG receives loan from Kenyan government

The Kibwezi Hortipreneur Youth Group (KHYG), which is one of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs group in Kenya, recently received the sum of 190,000 shillings from the government to boost its operations in Makueni County.

The non-interest loan is given to entrepreneurs under the Youth Enterprise Development Fund initiative of the Kenyan government to help create employment opportunities for young people through entrepreneurship. It provides easy and affordable financial and business development and support services to youths.

The successful applicants will pay back 25,000 shillings monthly throughout the period specified for repayment.



Some KHYG sorting tomatoes harvested from their screenhouse

CYAG trainees in Nigeria's Niger Delta get agribusiness start-up grants



Some of the trained CYAG youth working at their fish pond

Youths trained under the Community Youth in Agribusiness Group (CYAG) project received start-up funds to commence their own agribusiness enterprises. CYAG project, which is funded by Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) as part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), is targeted at harnessing the energy of the youth in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria for agribusiness.

After the training and incubation organized by IITA Youth Agripreneurs, the beneficiaries received certificates of participation and cheques of N600, 000 each to enable them set up agribusiness ventures.

Before the introduction of the project, many of the beneficiaries lived in the creeks, and were engaged in illegal crude oil operations. The grants will no doubt enable them to leave the creeks for the farms.

FAO innovation award for IYA



Evelyn Ohanwusi receiving the award on behalf of IYA

IYA won the 2019 International Innovation Award for Sustainable Food and Agriculture. The award was in recognition of IITA's commitment to improving both agribusiness opportunities and creditworthiness of youth across Africa.

The award, which is the first of its kind and funded by the government of Switzerland, was presented during

the 41st conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) at the organization's headquarters in Rome. The award came with the cash prize of \$20,000 which IYA pledged to use in the establishment of a youth in agribusiness program in Republic of Benin.

In fulfilment of that promise, IYA organized an implementation workshop in Benin to commence

agribusiness incubation activities at the IITA station in Benin. Fifteen youths aged between 18-35 years will be selected from regions around the proposed agribusiness incubation center. The training is intended to give beneficiaries technical, entrepreneurial and soft skills in commodities like rice, aquaculture and vegetable with special focus on production, processing, storage, marketing, use of ICT and mechanization techniques. The program will link graduates of the incubation centre to with financial institutions.

Expectations from the youths include setting up agribusiness enterprises in line with market survey and analysis, managing agribusiness enterprises at the incubation centre, and ensuring that the businesses generate revenue for them and for the maintenance of the facility. centre to with financial institutions.

Republic of Benin and Togo, welcome ENABLE-TAAT

ENABLE-TAAT Compact, leveraging on partnership with some in-country youth in agribusiness related programmes, moved to Republic of Benin to establish an agribusiness incubation centre where young Beninese would learn the technologies promoted by TAAT to establish youth-led agribusinesses.

In Togo, ENABLE-TAAT collaborated with the government to organize a 4-day comprehensive training for trainers at Centre Pilote des Techniques Agricoles du Togo (CPTA), in Lomé Togo.

With the expansion, ENABLE-TAAT will develop agribusiness skills, change counter-productive mindsets and provide economic opportunities to rural youth and women in agribusiness. The Compact will also work with some other TAAT commodities to establish a range of innovative, youth-led agricultural enterprises and consolidate the gains along value chains, including higher-value crop production, marketing, value addition and a range of agricultural services.



Valentina Ekun training the participants

IYA gives birth to another youth group



Dr Sangina (3rd from right) and the YAGL team at their office in Ibadan

IYA in 2019 birthed another youth group known as the Youth Agripreneurship Global Limited (YAGL). YAGL, which operates independently outside the premises of IITA headquarters in Ibadan,

is registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

YAGL was established to run as a profitable venture while engaging

youths in agribusiness. The group serves as a continuation of the strongest feature of IYA. It provides proactive contract services in the areas of project design, coordination and advocacy, communication and information, youth training in agribusiness, and agribusiness enterprise support.

The establishment of YAGL is one of the outcomes of IYA as highlighted in the organization's strategy which states that about 40 percent of the members will become self-employed by either establishing independent agribusiness enterprises or organizations.

YAGL serves as a linkage between IYA and the private sector.

Incubation program graduates receive funding in Madagascar



Dr Victor Manyong (M) with the graduating Agripreneurs



Representatives of IITA and the Minister of Agriculture in Madagascar

In Madagascar, the first batch of youths who completed their incubation program under the pilot phase of the ENABLE Youth Program received

cheques from Banque Nationale d'Investissement (BNI) to establish their businesses. Training of another set of 100 youths has commenced in

other centers within the country. IITA is providing technical assistance and backstopping for the program in the East African Island.

IFAD-funded youth in agribusiness project kicks off

The Youth Employment in Agribusiness and Sustainable Agriculture (YEASA), an IFAD funded project kicked off in 2019. The project, which is being implemented by Afe Babalola University (ABUAD), Ado-Ekiti, in partnership with the youth in agribusiness office of IITA and AfricaRice, aims to build the technical, entrepreneurial and soft skills of young adults between the ages of 18-35 to improve their productive capacity.

The project is expected to empower a thousand youth resident in rural areas in the Republic of Benin (Lokossa and Cotonou) and Nigeria (Oyo and Ekiti). In the project's first year, youths from the aforementioned locations, were trained on the value chains of Moringa, soybean/ cowpea, maize, plantain, mango, cassava, rice, catfish, and agriculture-machinery fabrications. At the end of the training, they were awarded start-up kits after developing bankable business plans vetted by experts.



A group photograph of the trainees and project staff

ENABLE-TAAT trainings commence in Oyo, Rivers

ENABLE-TAAT Compact in 2019 trained a batch of young people in Ibadan, Oyo State and Onne, Rivers State, in aquaculture and poultry. The training is part of efforts aimed at building the capacities of women and youth, and serving as a link in the promotion and

dissemination the technologies of Commodity Compacts. The process commenced in the third quarter of the year when training on improved TAAT commodity technologies along the value chains of Cassava, Aquaculture, OFSP, Poultry and Maize in Nigeria. A total

of 16,535 applications were received and the trainees were shortlisted based on set of gender sensitive selection criteria. Shortlisted applicants were subjected to series of interactive sessions to gauge their determination and test their entrepreneurship skills.



Faith Ohwofasa conducting a training for the interns



The interns during a practical session on fish smoking

Picture Gallery



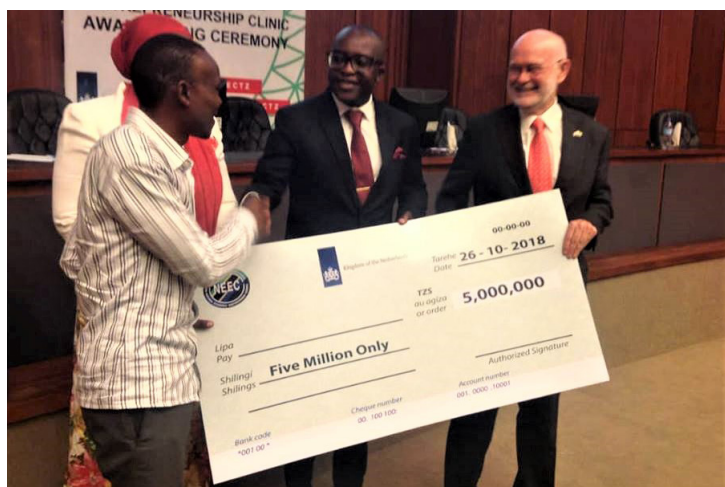
In celebration of 2019 International Youth Day



Senior Technical Adviser on Youth and Gender to the former Minister of Agriculture, Ms Mosun Umoru addressing participants at a Youth in Agribusiness Summit organized at IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria.



Visit of TAAT steering committee to ENABLE-TAAT sales outlet in DR Congo



A trainee of IYA in Tanzania, Edmond Ng'walago emerged as the winner of Young Graduate Entrepreneurship award with a cash prize of 5,000,000Tsh in 2019.



The Start Them Early Program (STEP) was launched in Nigeria in 2019