

## Goodwill messages

DG Sanginga



Dear all,

Another year has come and flown past. The year 2016 marks an important milestone for me as the DG of IITA. The board renewed my term for another five years and I gladly accepted after some soul searching. During my first term, we achieved a lot together—we saw IITA's budget increase threefold and so did the number of staff. The Business Incubation Platform was established to attract the private sector to take up and widely disseminate our technologies and the Youth Agripreneurs program was successfully launched, first in Nigeria and then in nearly all the countries we are working in.

Staff morale was high. Therefore, I had wondered if there was anything new I could do for the Institute to keep me engaged and interested to build on these achievements and keep the momentum. And yes, there was—the

two mega initiatives in which we are partnering with the Africa Development Bank to transform Africa's agriculture. These are TAAT (Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation) and ENABLE Youth (Empowering Novel Agri-Business-Led Employment).

This year was significant for the two initiatives. We held meetings with our partners to plan for them and many countries are ready to roll them out. Through TAAT all the mature and proven technologies from CGIAR centers will be scaled out for wider adoption and impact and through ENABLE Youth major initiatives to attract youth to agriculture and tackle unemployment will be implemented. IITA is playing a major role in these two initiatives.

Next year will be another significant year as we mark our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will be celebrating our successes and hard work as we pledge to do even more to transform Africa's agriculture. We are no longer just nourishing Africa, we are transforming Africa. This is now our new tagline in our logo. We have also adjusted our management structure accordingly, creating a new directorate for Partnerships for Delivery to deliver on our vision. And I am really excited about the future of IITA and looking forward to 2017 in particular. I hope you all are.

I therefore thank each and every one of you for your hard work and commitment to the Institute. I hope you will spend some quality time with your family and friends this festive season and be ready to take on 2017 with renewed vigor and commitment. I wish you and your families a happy and prosperous 2017.

Kenton Dashiell, DDG P4D



Happy holidays and a joyful and prosperous new year to you all! Go ahead: celebrate and enjoy yourselves! You deserve it.

At IITA we have many achievements to celebrate in 2016 and a lot more to look forward to in 2017. We saw the Partnerships and Capacity Development directorate change to become Partnerships for Delivery. This is because we need to pay as much attention to the delivery of our technologies for impact as we do to generating them! The Directorate will be working closely with the Research-for-Development directorate to ensure that our innovations are packaged and delivered to the right people at the right time and in the right way for wide-scale adoption and greater impact.

At IITA we have an ambitious goal of lifting 11.5 million people out of poverty. We cannot achieve it on our own; we need to work with and through partners and especially the private sector. We will need new partners even as we strengthen our collaboration with existing ones.

Our main vehicles for disseminating technologies will be through TAAT and ENABLE Youth. In 2016 we laid the groundwork for these two initiatives and many of you worked very hard on this. In 2017 we are ready to hit the road running in many African countries and we are counting on your collaboration as well. Our partner, the AfDB, is very committed to seeing that these initiatives succeed and so is the IITA management to make sure that we achieve our goal of transforming Africa's agriculture. Many other donors and governments are also very interested.

The Youth Agripreneurs program, another avenue to disseminate our technologies, has also continued to grow beyond our expectations. Our youth colleagues in the Youth-in-Agribusiness program are doing an amazing job of demonstrating that agriculture is indeed the future for Africa's youth. We are very proud of them.

Once again thank you for all your support throughout the year, for all your hard work and commitment to IITA. Thanks to Dr Sanginga for his excellent leadership and for accepting to be our DG for another five-year term.

Ylva Hillbur, DDG R4D



It's hard to believe that shortly we will be closing the curtains on 2016 to usher in 2017. It was only the other day that we were celebrating a new year. For IITA's Research for Development, 2016 was a very good year. We grew tremendously—many new, major projects were started and many new researchers joined us. We have also seen tremendous growth at our hubs.

We have also made very good progress towards making our knowledge accessible to everyone—since our research is a public good—through Open Access. By October this year over 50% of our publications

were on Open Access. This can be partly attributed to the open access campaign we launched and ran throughout this year. We also have a new unit, the Data and Information Management Unit to coordinate and support our efforts towards openness.

Another area in which we made good progress was towards refining our data collection methods to demonstrate the impact of our research. We need to be accountable to our donors and partners and we need quality data to show our progress towards achieving our Key Performance Indicators—lifting 11 million out of poverty and rehabilitating 7.5 million ha of degraded land. The teams working on this have made great headway.

On another note, 2016 will also be my last complete year at IITA as I will be leaving by March 2017 to take on an exciting and challenging position at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. This was not an easy decision to make as I still had so many plans for IITA and I enjoyed being here. I will definitely miss IITA but I assure you all I will continue to be an IITA ambassador.

I therefore wish you and your families' happy holidays, good health, and success in 2017!

## Nigerian Government approves the ENABLE Youth Program

The Pan-African program, tagged ENABLE Youth, designed to actively engage and create gainful employment and wealth for African youth along the agricultural value chains, has been approved by the Nigerian government.

The program concept note, which has now been approved after tough negotiations among concerned stakeholders, was initiated in 2014 during the Youth in Agribusiness Development Initiative (YADI) conference which took place in IITA, Ibadan.

The program, which is based on the [IITA Youth Agripreneurs](#) (IYA) model, is funded by the African Development Bank to give African youth the opportunity of tapping into the vast resources in agriculture.

Building on the experience of IYA, 31 African countries including Nigeria indicated an interest in outscaling the IYA model and so far, the program has been approved in DR Congo, Nigeria, Sudan, and Cameroon.

Considering the rate of unemployment in Nigeria, the ENABLE Youth Nigeria



Youth agripreneurs.

program will bridge the gap by equipping youth with various skills, values, attitudes, and orientation that will impact on their lives, the lives of others, and the society in general. The project is expected to provide decent employment by making agriculture attractive to the youth. It will also influence institutional changes in terms of access to finance particularly for youth.

The program, which will be implemented in the 36 states including the Federal Capital Territory for 5 years, is targeting young, unemployed Nigerian graduates from any field of study who have finished

their National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) program (Greenfield) and graduate youth who are already successfully engaged in agribusiness, but have no access to commercial loans to grow their businesses (Brownfields). These youth will be provided loans to start up identified agribusiness enterprises in any value chain.

The program is expected to create 1,000 jobs per state.

IITA through its youth in agribusiness program will be playing a major role in this continental program.

## IITA DDG tours Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania

IITA's Deputy Director General for Research for Development (R4D), [Ylva Hillbur](#) was last week on a tour of the Eastern Africa hub where she visited Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania and met partners and staff of the Institute.

In Tanzania, the DDG toured IITA's field sites, offices, and laboratories in Dar es Salaam as well as met staff and the Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs who briefed her on their activities. While addressing the staff, Hillbur said she was impressed with the research atmosphere in the new science building.

"I first visited the hub when the science building was under construction, then at its inauguration in 2013. Now I am glad to see it fully functioning with many new scientists and students. I have toured the various laboratories—soil, food technology, plant pathology—they are impressive," she said.

"I have also toured the fields and seen the cassava trials under the 5CP project seeking to address cassava brown streak disease."

Hillbur commended the efforts of the Social Science team that is leading the Institute's efforts to monitor progress on its key performance indicator on measuring poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa as a result of adoption of IITA technologies.

She also commended efforts by the Gender team led by Amare Tegbaru, who is also based in Tanzania, to guide the Institute in conducting quantitative research and addressing gender issues in agriculture.

Representatives of the Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs briefed Hillbur on their efforts to develop their enterprises—including processing of soybean into soymilk and yoghurt and cassava into high quality cassava flour—and to change youth's mindset towards agriculture in Tanzania. Hillbur visited them at their training and processing center constructed by the Support to Africa Research and Development—Strategic Crops ([SARD-SC](#)) project funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB).



*Ylva touring the Agripreneurs' processing and training center in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.*

### Team bids Hillbur goodbye

The team in Tanzania also took the opportunity to formally bid Hillbur goodbye—she will be leaving the Institute early next year to take up a new leadership position with the Swedish University of Agricultural Science—and to congratulate her and wish her all the best.

"Next year you may be very busy with the handing over and you may not have time to visit us to say goodbye. I therefore take this opportunity on behalf of the staff and millions of smallholder farmers in the continent whom we are serving, to say thank you for the good leadership you have provided to the Institute's R4D. You directed us by convincing us and not imposing," said Victor Manyong, R4D Director for East Africa Hub.



*Ylva with Victor Manyong, hub Director and Veronica Kebwe, Chair of the Tanzania Youth Agripreneurs*

On her part, Hillbur said that leaving IITA was one of the most difficult decisions she has ever made as she enjoyed her work at the institute and there was still so much to do. However due to both professional and personal reasons she had accepted the offer from the Vice-Chancellor to take up a new position at the university.

### Ethiopia and Kenya

In Ethiopia, Hillbur visited Holetta National Biotechnology Center of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) which is partnering with IITA on a project to transform Enset and confer resistance against banana wilt. This was based on the success that the Institute had achieved in transforming banana for resistance against the same disease. She also met the Deputy Director General of EIAR and other senior staff.

In Nairobi she attended a planning meeting of the Enset transformation project.



*Ylva receiving a goodbye gift from Eveline Odiambo.*

Got a story to share? Please email it with photos and captions every Wednesday to Katherine Lopez ([k.lopez@cgiar.org](mailto:k.lopez@cgiar.org)), Jeffrey T. Oliver ([j.oliver@cgiar.org](mailto:j.oliver@cgiar.org)), Catherine Njuguna ([c.njuguna@cgiar.org](mailto:c.njuguna@cgiar.org)), or Adaobi Umeokoro ([a.umeokoro@cgiar.org](mailto:a.umeokoro@cgiar.org)).

## IITA holds end-of-year family fun day in Tanzania

IITA-Tanzania's annual family fun day that brings together staff and their families to celebrate the year's achievements was held on 3 December. Over 300 people including staff and the family of institutions hosted at the Eastern Africa hub offices including the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and the International Potato Center (CIP) took part in the fun-filled event.

During the event, the staff and their family members, had fun, engaging in various fun games including tug of war, sack racing, football, beach volleyball, word games, and also in a drawing and dancing competition. The event was also a soft launch for IITA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations with the hub Director [Victor Manyong](#) cutting a cake.

Speaking at the event, Manyong appreciated the support given to IITA by staff and their families. He also thanked the IITA Board and Management for their dedication and commitment to the

Institute. He particularly singled out the commitment and dedication of Director General [Nteranya Sanginga](#) that had seen the Institute grow tremendously under his first term.

"We are very thankful that our Director General has accepted to serve the Institute for a second term," Manyong said.

The winning teams won prizes and long service awards were given to three members of staff who had served the Institute for over 10 years.



Manyong giving children of staff pieces of the 50th Anniversary cake.



Left: Celebrating IITA at 50. Right: Staff and members competing in a wood walking exercise.

## Announcements

### IITA joins ETS

The Institute has joined the Excellence Through Stewardship (ETS) platform. ETS is a global not-for-profit organization that promotes the universal adoption of stewardship programs and quality management systems for the full life cycle of agricultural technology products. In a welcome post on 29 November, ETS wrote:

Welcome International Institute of Tropical Agriculture!

Excellence Through Stewardship is thrilled to welcome the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). IITA's membership marks its commitment to the best quality management and product stewardship practices. Headquartered in Nigeria and with biotechnology operations in Kenya, Nigeria, and other stations, IITA joins more than 30 other companies and research groups who have implemented ETS's globally accepted program.

IITA is a non-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, IITA improves livelihoods, enhances food and nutrition security, increases employment, and preserves natural resource integrity. It is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future.

### New book on cassava now online

A new book titled [Achieving sustainable cultivation of cassava Volume 1](#) & [Volume 2](#), edited by Clair Hershey of CIAT, is now available online. It covers each step in the value chain for the production of cassava, from breeding through to harvest. The book was published by [Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing](#)— a new "climate smart" publisher. You can read more about the books by following the links to each volume above.

