



BRITISH AMERICAN
TOBACCO NIGERIA
FOUNDATION

Empowering rural Nigeria for a sustainable future

GREENTalk

Issue 1 January-April 2015



“We happy pass happy”

-Oshodi Women Vegetable Farmers

In 2014, the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) in collaboration with Nigeria Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) organized a training for women vegetable farmers at Oshodi, Lagos State. Almost one year later, **praise, requests for more and bountiful vegetable harvest by the women are the Foundation's rewards.**

Mrs. Veronica Daniel known to all the women vegetable farmers as Magaji (Leader) spoke to the Foundation on the situation of the women farmers before BATNF Intervention and on the improvements after.

Most of the women farmers growing vegetables within the walls of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria Training School have been farming for over 30 years. They labour daily at their farms which is their

only source of livelihood and their only income for catering for dependants some of whom are undergraduates at universities. The women cannot imagine life without the farms and proceeds from them. “Some of us be widow” Magaji told the Foundation on



EDITOR'S NOTE

At the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF), our mission is to reduce poverty in rural Nigerian communities by supporting smallholder farmers through sustainable agriculture.

In this edition of *GreenTalk* we will provide some insight on some of our engagements in 2015, to fulfil our mission. We will also be recounting one of our major successes for the year 2014. The Oshodi Women project and present to you our main reasons for supporting agriculture with our “Facts about Agriculture” column.

Welcome to the not-so-new year and to the first edition of *GreenTalk* for the Year 2015.

Footnote: The BATNF particularly targets vulnerable groups in society for their support and interventions. These groups mostly made up of women and youths are often excluded from financial and social services for a variety of reasons such as gender and age.



One of the women vegetable farmers in her farm.

behalf of the women, “some of us get husband wey no wan work, na from here we dey get money dey cover” Their greatest fear which may never happen is that the FRCN would decide to retrieve their lands from them without notice.

Prior to the Foundation's support in 2014, there had been no support from individuals, government or charity groups. The Foundation's intervention was therefore a pleasant and welcome surprise. Even more welcome, was the BATNF's provision of agricultural inputs for their vegetables which took the burden of

purchasing fertilizer away from the women and greatly enhanced their vegetable production.

Nearly one year later, they request for more support. On behalf of the vegetable farmers, Magaji requested for more fertilizer for the year and requested for Ugu seed inputs to support their vegetable production. She also asked the BATNF to facilitate market access for their vegetables, “the people wey dey come buy from us to sell for market na them dey gain pass, na them we dey work for. If we get shop for market, we go fit sell our vegetables on our own, make better money”. In response to questions on their plans for the future, Magaji expressed hope that they would be able to retire from their farms which she said was hard work. She said many of the women looked forward to retirement and



trading after retirement.

When asked to say a few words about the Foundation's intervention, Magaji had these words to say “We happy pass happy, last year dey special but make una come again this year. If una come make una bring ugu and fertilizer. If una sabi any other thing wey go help us, make una bring am come!”

Strategic Partnerships -The BATNF Example

FOR successful implementation, management and sustenance of her projects, the BATN Foundation collaborates with its beneficiary communities, other non-governmental organisations and agriculture based organisations. These partnerships support execution of the projects for better impact, greater yield and engender a

sense of ownership of the projects among beneficiary communities.

The Foundation works with implementing partners, who monitor, evaluate and report on the successes of BATNF interventions which are evidence based and assure by their monitoring and evaluations that these interventions are

continued beyond the period of the Foundation's support. Some of the Foundation's Partners include: International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) and FADAMA III programme, State Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs), Input suppliers, NGOs and Consultants.



Group photograph of the Implementing Partners after the Workshop.

In reinforcement of these mutually beneficial partnerships, the Foundation held a workshop for her implementing partners from Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th March 2015. The workshop which held at Ibadan, Oyo State presented a forum for all strategic partners to share lessons learned in the implementation of past BATNF projects and adopt new strategies for executing the proposed projects in 2015.



Participants at the Workshop.



A speaker at the Workshop.

BATNF & CAVA to facilitate access to market for the BATNF beneficiaries

One of the major challenges faced by farmers in rural communities is a lack of access to market for food harvested from the farms. This challenge often results in large post-harvest food losses that culminate into huge financial losses to the farmers.

To facilitate improved access to market for her beneficiaries in cassava production in Ogun State, the Foundation met with the Cassava: Adding Value for Africa project (CAVA II) on Monday 9th February 2015 in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

The Country Manager for the CAVA II project, Professor L.O Sanni expressed their willingness to partner with the Foundation to expedite access to market for beneficiaries of the BATNF and outlined conditions to be met for a successful partnership.

The Foundation is committed to limiting food losses and increasing the income of smallholder farmers by facilitating greater access to market for the farmers' benefit and will be following up with CAVA for the next step.



Harvested cassava roots.



Cassava Farm.

"...Willingness to partner with the Foundation to expedite access to market for beneficiaries"

-Prof. L.O Sanni



With the ever present demand for poultry and its products, the introductory poultry value chain development training is right on target.

*T*echnical support needed to establish a poultry farm



BATNF trains women poultry farmers in partnership with CHI Farms Limited Poultry Institute

From Monday 23rd to Tuesday 24th March 2015, the Foundation in partnership with CHI Farms Limited Poultry Institute conducted a training programme for female poultry farmers in Ogun State, Nigeria. The training programme which was conducted at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library was aimed at improving the knowledge of the poultry farmers to better manage their poultry production for increased benefits.

Although originally targeted at female poultry farmers in the State to mark the World

International Women's Day, the training included some male poultry farmers who were eager to benefit from the programme; about 30% of the trainees on both days were men. A total of 99 participants were trained on the 1st day and on the second day, the number of participants increased to 114.

With the ever present demand for poultry and its products, the introductory poultry value chain development training is right on target. The Foundation also hopes to empower about 40 of the participants selected in collaboration with

the State's Ministry of Agriculture to establish poultry farms. A needs assessment exercise will be conducted to enable evidence based intervention and support of the participants selected from Egba and Ijebu communities of Ogun State.

The project of empowering the poultry farmers will be managed and executed by CHI farms Limited Poultry Institute. Inputs and technical support needed to establish a poultry farm will also be supplied by the Foundation through CHI Farms Limited.

BATNF, IITA and The Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development avert crises

The dispute between Fulani herdsmen and farmers reared its ugly head in Otu and Igboho communities in Oyo State, Nigeria but was averted by the joint efforts of the BATNF, IITA, and Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Both communities were beneficiaries of BATNF interventions in cassava enterprise value chain development in 2014.

Fulani herdsmen in search of food for their cattle in the dry season grazed on the cassava farms cultivated as part of the cassava value chain enterprise development. The overgrazing led to huge losses for the farmers and the situation rapidly deteriorated almost to an aggressive state.

To avert the looming bloodshed often reported in other parts of the country between farmers and herdsmen, the Foundation in collaboration with the implementing partners of the cassava projects in the communities, the IITA worked together to resolve the dispute. Their quest was supported by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Local Government's Director of Agriculture and the Council of Chiefs for the affected communities. The parties involved (BATNF cassava farmers groups and representatives of the Fulani herdsmen) were invited to a meeting where amicable resolution of their disputes were negotiated.

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and State Security Officials were also invited to maintain peace and order. Clashes between farmers and Fulani herdsmen have resulted in violence and loss of lives and have been reported in different parts of the country, the Foundation's timely interventions with other relevant stakeholders critical to successful peace negotiations, averted bloodshed and laid a foundation for continued peaceful existence between the farmers and the herdsmen.



Group photograph of the Stakeholders' meeting at Otu.



WELCOME ON BOARD



This is to announce the appointment of Olusegun Adewole as the Foundation's new Project Manager. Adewole is a holder of Masters of Science Degree in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development from University of Ibadan. He worked with USAID SHARE Project as Project Coordinator before joining the Foundation in March, 2015.

FACTS ABOUT AGRICULTURE

"Agriculture can help reduce poverty for 75% of the world's poor, who live in rural areas and work mainly in farming. It can raise incomes, improve food security and benefit the environment."

– World Bank

1. Nearly 240 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa live in hunger, where agriculture provides 70% of employment.
2. Hunger is inherited. 17 million children are born malnourished each year because their mothers are hungry too.
3. Over half of the hungry people in the world are small farmers. Investing in agriculture can lift them out of poverty.
4. 75% of the world's poor live in rural areas and most are dependent on agriculture for food or income
5. More than 3 billion people (half the world) eat rice every day.

Works Cited

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