



BRITISH AMERICAN
TOBACCO NIGERIA
FOUNDATION

Empowering rural Nigeria for a sustainable future

GREENTalk

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Foundation Day



From left: Chidinma, Onyinye, Oluwaseyi, Freddy and Abimbola displaying farm produce-for-sale at the event.

THE United Nation's World Food Day which holds every year was celebrated by the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation on 15th December, 2015. The celebration, which was the first at the new head office, Rising Sun Building, showcased fresh organic farm produce from our beneficiary farmers across Nigeria. Rice from Doko, Niger State, Garri from Okolemo, Ogun State, dried

cat fish from Epe, Lagos State and eggs from Abeokuta, Ogun State were showcased and sold at highly subsidised prices. This is another channel to encourage our beneficiary farmers to contribute to the nation's food production. Proceeds from the sales were donated to charity.

Footnote: In adding value to its support through interventions, the Foundation showcased its beneficiary smallholder farmers and their produce through an exhibition during the Farmers' Day to celebrate the commissioning of the BAT Nigeria head office: Rising Sun Building.

PICTURES FROM THE DAY



(1) The produce on display; (2) Visitors at the Foundation stand; (3) The Foundation operations team; (4) Oluwaseyi Sojinrin of HR with her purchase; (5) Freddy Messanvi, Area Head of LEX, displaying catfish during the event; (6) Staff after their purchase; (7) Employees purchasing the farm produce; (8) Oluwaseyi calling for buyers of egba garri during the event; (9) BAT staff purchasing farm produce on display; (10) Employees with Abimbola (second right) at the Stand.

BATNF explores collaboration with international agencies

THE British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation remains committed to empowering rural Nigeria for a sustainable future.

This January, key meetings were held with stakeholders to explore possible partnerships and collaborations on sustainable agriculture.

Capacity building of beneficiaries, scaling-up of numbers of projects' beneficiaries, linking of beneficiaries to other sponsored agricultural projects available, and linkages to markets, were some of the topics discussed at these sessions.

The meeting which held On Thursday, 7th January 2016, in Ibadan was coordinated by the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation team with the Canadian Fund headed by Regional Project Coordinator, Professor C. Adebooye, and smallholder vegetable farmers from Lagos, Oyo and Kwara State. The objective of the meeting was to provide linkage for the farmers. A similar meeting was held in Lagos on the 14th and 15th of January with cassava and aquaculture project management teams of Business Innovation Facility (BIF), on partnership opportunities to improve the production and income of smallholder farmers in cassava and fishery value-chains.



Participants at the meeting with Canadian Fund in Ibadan.

Matured rice on the established field during the visit.



BATNF rice model farm Media Tour

'GANI ya koriji', in hausa language which literary means 'seeing is believing' best described the media tour of the BATNF Rice Enterprise Development Project, Doko, Niger State conducted on Thursday 21st January, 2016.

This was completed by Abimbola Akosile, Assistant Editor of This Day Newspaper together with Tajudeen Akinwande of the Foundation, Lawrence Amaku of XLR8, our Public Relations agency, Alhaji Muhammed Vasta of the Niger State Agricultural Development Program, (ADP), the implementing partner of the project and the beneficiaries of the project.

The visit took the team to Gaba-Doko community in the Bida Emirate Council of Niger State where over 10 hectares of irrigated rice farms were established by beneficiaries (who are mainly youths) of the BATNF Rice Enterprise Development Project. According to the Chairman of the Group, Ndatsu Fari, the BATNF on-going Sustainable Rice Enterprise Development Project provided the beneficiaries the opportunity to have two production seasons instead of one. *'The proceeds from the rain-fed production season, gave us the opportunity financially, and with the technical support from Niger State ADP, we were able to establish over 10 hectares of dry-season rice farm through irrigation,'* he added.

The water used for the irrigation was pumped from Gaba River which is located over 500 metres away from rice farms. Pipes were laid under the ground and water was pumped with the aid of an 8 horse power water pump.

PHOTO SHOTS DURING THE VISIT



A section of established 10 hectares irrigated rice farm at Gaba-Doko Community during the visit.



Abimbola Akosile (arrowed) of This Day newspaper with the beneficiary farmers in the rice field.



The irrigation system of the rice farm.



4 Akosile with the Chairman of the farmers' group, Ndatsu Fari during an interview session on the farm.



Akosile inside the store where harvested produce of the rain-fed production season was stored.



The beneficiary farmers: Mrs. Philomena Gbeyon; Mr. Danjuma Muhammed; Malam Aliyu Idris and Mrs. Cecelia Gbadebo at the Farmers' Stand.

Farmers' Market at the Rising Sun

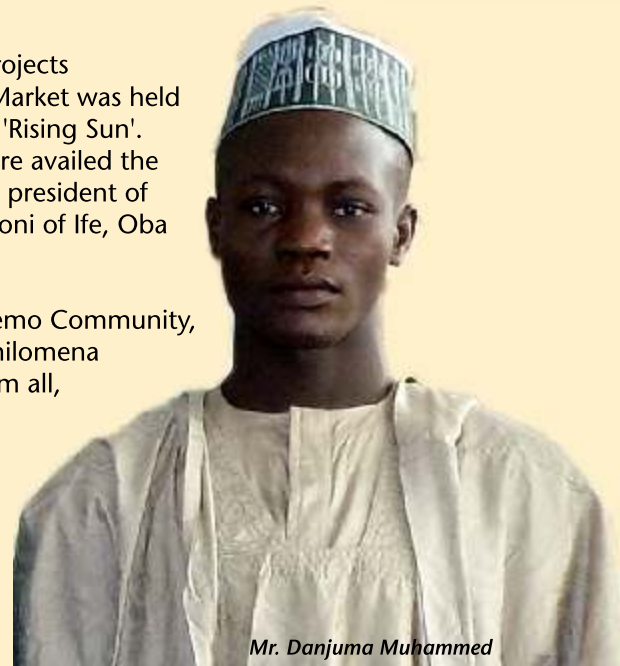
TUESDAY, 8th February 2016 was a day to remember for the Foundation's projects beneficiaries. The 1st British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation Farmers' Market was held to celebrate the commissioning of the BAT Nigeria corporate head office the 'Rising Sun'. Apart from having their fresh farm produce on display for the event, they were availed the opportunity to meet some notable personalities in Nigeria, including former president of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo; Oba of Lagos, HRH Oba Rilwan Akiolu; Ooni of Ife, Oba Enitan Adeyeye Ogunwusi and other dignitaries present at the occasion.

The beneficiaries include: Mrs Cecelia Gbadebo, a cassava farmer from Okolemo Community, Ogun State; Malam Aliyu Idris, a rice farmer from Dokko, Niger State; Mrs Philomena Gbeyon, a vegetable farmer from Ajara, Lagos State and the youngest of them all, Danjuma Mohammed, a 25-year old rice farmer from Dokko, Niger State.

While expressing her excitement and gratitude to the Foundation, Mrs Gbeyon stated that *"It is a rare opportunity for me not only to see the former president, Chief Obasanjo but also to interact with him. Thank you for this golden opportunity."* According to Mohammed, *"This is my first time in Lagos. I only see Lagos in pictures and television."*

Some of the farm produce on display at the colourful event were fresh garri from Okolemo, Ogun State, fresh dried cat fish from Epe, Lagos State and fresh organic local rice from Dokko, Niger State.

(Read the full interview with Danjuma Mohammed in our subsequent edition.)



Mr. Danjuma Muhammed

'This is my first time in Lagos. I only see Lagos in pictures and television'



Mrs. Philomena Gbeyon

'It is a rare opportunity for me not only to see the former president, Chief Obasanjo but also to interact with him. Thank you for this golden opportunity.'



PICTURES FROM THE DAY



(1) Malam Aliyu Idris, Mrs Philomena Gbeyon, Oluwaseyi Ashade; Chief Kola Jamodu; Mrs. Cecelia Gbadebo; Malam Danjuma Muhammed; and Abimbola Okoya after the event; (2) Former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo at the Farmers' Stand; (3) Visitors at the Farmers' Stand; (4) A section of the stand with staff purchasing farm produce; (5) Ooni of Ife, Oba Enitan Adeyeye Ogunwusi and Oba of Lagos, Oba Rilwan Akiolu at the event (6) The Foundation operations team: from left-Onyinye, Tajudeen, Abimbola, Remi and Chidinma; (7) More produce purchase by BAT employees at the Stand.

BATNF Presented Draft Report at the NCARD meeting



General manager, BATNF, Abimbola Okoya, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh; Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Anambra State, Mr. Afam Mbanefo and Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Cross River State, Mr. Francis Adie at the 41st National Council on Agriculture and Rural Development meeting in Kano.

THE British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation presented its draft report of its Executive Working Group (EWG) on *Key Issues Affecting Smallholder Farmers in Nigeria* to the 41st regular meeting of National Council on Agriculture and Rural Development (NCARD) held from 8th to 12th February at the Coronation Hall, Government House, Kano.

The Foundation's report, with the topic: '*Key Issues Affecting Smallholder Farmers in Nigeria*' was presented and submitted at the meeting by Mr. Innocent Azih, member, BATNF EWG. Memoranda and papers were also received from states' Ministries of Agriculture, Organised Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organisations.

The 5-day meeting which was chaired by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh OFR, was declared open by His Excellency, the Governor of Kano State, Dr. Abdulahi Umar Ganduje, OFR, had in attendance the commissioners for agriculture of the 36 states of the federation, representatives of international development agencies, agro-inputs manufacturers, dealers in agro-inputs, Non-Governmental Organisations and farmers.

BATNF General Manager, Abimbola Okoya and Chairman, BATNF EWG, Professor Femi Ajibola were also present at the meeting. Over 160 memoranda from national and international stakeholders were received and considered by the participants at the regular meeting.



Participants at the Meeting.



Professor Ajibola, Mr. Azih and Abimbola at the Meeting.



Professor Femi Ajibola, Abimbola Okoya, Ogun State Commissioner for Agriculture, Mrs Funke Sokefun and Mr. Innocent Azih at the Meeting.



Participants during the Workshop.

Strategic partnership workshop to empower rural dwellers for sustainable future

IN reinforcing its mission, vision and strategic plans, the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, in partnership with its implementing partners, BATNF Technical Committee and New Nigeria Foundation organised a 2-day Implementing Partners Workshop from 17th to 18th February at Ibadan, Oyo State. The Workshop, which was the Foundation's second series, availed the participants the opportunity to share reports of their projects activities which include achievements, challenges and recommendations for a successful 2016 implementation year. The Workshop which evaluated all on-going sustainable agricultural projects also adopted new strategies for execution of the next farming cycle and new projects for 2016.

Presenters at the Workshop made valuable contributions on climate change, agricultural value-chain development and BATNF Finance and Procurement Processes.



Dr. Nwakpu of Ebonyi State Fadama Coordinating Office making his presentation.



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Dr. Akintoye of Nigeria Horticulture Research Institute, making his presentation.



Dr. Sharifai of Institute for Agricultural Research, Kano, making his presentation.

BATNF Commissioned Rehabilitated Cassava Processing Cottage Industry

IN keeping to its mission and vision, the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation commissioned and handed over the rehabilitated well-equipped cassava processing cottage industry at Ago-Are in ATISBO Local Government of Oyo State on Wednesday, 23rd March 2016. The cottage industry, which was initially commissioned in December 2004, was handed over to the Management Committee of Ifelodun Ago-Are Parapo, in Oyo State.

The Oyo State Governor, Senator Abiola Ajimobi, ably represented by the Director for Rural Development, Ministry of

Agriculture, Rural Development and Natural Resources, Mr. Yode Ayanlowo, commissioned the cottage industry, while His Royal Highness, Oba (Dr) Abodunrin Oyetunji Kofoworola, Aare of Ago-Are declared the cottage industry open.

While presenting the Certificate of Handover, the Executive Director of the Foundation, Oluwaseyi Ashade, who represented the Chairman, Chief Kola Jamodu, enjoined the Management Committee to properly manage the cottage industry for the benefit of the cassava farmers within and outside the community and urged them to leave behind an enduring legacy for the generation of young farmers.



The rehabilitated cassava processing cottage Industry. Insert are the water and sanitary facilities provided to improve hygiene at the industry and serve the community.



Oba Abodunrin Oyetunji declaring open the rehabilitated cottage industry.



The community members in a joyous mood at the event.



Oluwaseyi presenting the Handover Certificate to Mr. Ayanlowo.



Demonstration of cassava grater during the event.



Demonstration of cassava fryer during the event.



Dignitaries after the commissioning of the project.



The established demonstration farm.

Ajara vegetable project irrigation facility commissioned

Thursday, 14th April 2016 will continue to be an unforgettable day for the Ewebe FADAMA Users Cooperative Group when the BATNF Ajara Vegetable Enterprise Development Project was officially flagged off and the 2.5ha irrigation facility installed by British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation was commissioned and formally handed over to the Group.

The committed 22 smallholder vegetable farmers are the beneficiaries of the project which started in 2014 with a 2-week Train-of-Trainers program of 5 members at Lagos Agric-Youth Enhancement Scheme at Araga Farm Settlement in Epe on the production of exotic vegetable.

The project which is in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Lagos State, has the National Horticultural Research Institute, NHRI, Ibadan as its implementing partner. Pre-season, on-season and post-season trainings on best agronomy practices in vegetable production and various farm inputs were given to the beneficiaries. Valuable markets -open and institutional -were identified and the farmers have been linked to them.

With the installed irrigation facility, the Ewebe FADAMA Users Group can produce vegetables both during the rainy and dry seasons.



Presentation of handover certificate.



Official commissioning of the irrigation facility.



The beneficiaries at the event.

IDRC Team Visit Ajara Vegetable Project

IN continuation of inspection visits to Micro Vegetable Projects in Nigeria, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada on Monday, 18th April, 2016, visited the BATNF-Ajara Vegetable Enterprise Value-chain Development project at Badagry Local Government of Lagos State.

During the visit, the team informed the farmers that the intervention is aimed to address the issue of harvest losses being experienced by the farmers due to the highly perishable nature of their farm produce through the introduction of value addition innovations.

At the meeting, the farmers expressed some of the challenges faced during farming season. This include: Climate change, erratic electricity supply, sourcing for right seeds for planting, high cost of farm inputs, produce marketing and nature of the soil available for them to farm on.

During the visit to the irrigation facility provided by BATNF Foundation in supporting them to be able to produce throughout the year, Abimbola Okoya, General Manager, BATNF informed the team of the Foundation's mission, vision and objectives in supporting smallholder farmers in Nigeria. In supporting the Ajara vegetable farmers, the following strategy were adopted: Train-of-trainers program of 5 members of the group at Lagos State Agric- Youth Empowerment Scheme, capacity building of the group in best agronomic practices, and supply of required farm inputs through collaboration with Nigeria Horticultural Research Institute, Ibadan



The MicroVeg Team listening to farmers at the farm site.



MicroVeg Team, BATNF team and the farmers in a group photograph.

BATNF attends FIND Dialogue

ON Tuesday, 12th April 2016, the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation attended a dialogue session organised by Forum for Inclusive Nigeria Development, FIND, at the prestigious Protea Hotel, Ikeja.

The dialogue, which has 'Promoting Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development of States in Nigeria' as its topic has 4 presentations by experts on various topics. These are: UN's support for Equitable and Sustainable Growth in Nigeria: Emerging results and road map for the future by Ms. Fatma Samoura of UNDP; Mundane Diversification Strategies for Inclusive Development of States in Nigeria by Prof. Douglasson Omotor of WAIFEIM; Inclusive of Growth of States in Nigeria by Dr. Oluyomi Ola-David of Covenant University; and Supporting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in Nigeria by Dr. Chuma Ezedinma of UNIDO Nigeria.

Some of the outcomes from the Dialogue include:

- Using agriculture clusters for industrial and economic values.
- Substitute imported agricultural produce with local produce.
- Improves employment most especially at the rural communities through sustainable agricultural practices.



Participants at the Dialogue.

FACTS ABOUT AGRICULTURE

Half of Sub-Saharan farmers are women. Since 1980, the ratio of female farmers to male farmers has been on the increase. This is similar to the EU where the number of female farmers has also increased by about 40 per cent. (*Globalgrowing.com*)

Nigeria has a population of over 170 million. The entire population depends on staple foods and other farm produces for their daily meals and sustenance. More than 80% of Nigerians buy their farm produce from the market. (*Wealthresult.com*)



Sustainability

British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation supports small holder farmers to adopt more productive ways of earning livelihoods from natural resources in a sustainable manner



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