



BRITISH AMERICAN  
TOBACCO NIGERIA  
FOUNDATION

Empowering rural Nigeria for a sustainable future

# GREENTalk

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# Celebrating World Food Day



Over 1,000 volunteers, including staff of British American Tobacco Nigeria and other corporate organisations, embarked on a 5-kilometre walk on Thursday, 6th October 2016 which marked the beginning of a week-long celebration of the 2016 World Food Day. The World Food Day was created by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of United Nations. The event, which was organised by Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation kicked off from the premises of Ikeja Local Government and terminated at the Ministry of Agriculture office complex, State Secretariat, Alausa.

## ...Farmers' Forum

On Thursday, 13th October 2016, the celebration train moved to the Suntan Beach, Badagry, where the annual Lagos State Ministry of agriculture Farmers' Forum was held. The event, which was a collaboration of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture and British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, had in attendance smallholder farmers from all the divisions in Lagos State, agro-processors and other key players along the agricultural value-chain.

Professor Francis Adesina of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, on behalf of BATNF, presented a paper on the 'Importance of Climate Smart Agriculture in Modern Farming' at the event.

council development areas exhibited various farm produce. Activities for the day included a march by all exhibitors, cultural display and presentation of awards to various categories of the value-chain which include: Best Crop Farmer; Best Livestock Farmer; Best Aquaculture Farmer; Best Artisanal Farmer; Best Agro-processor; Best Agro-forestry; Best LG/LCDA; Best Farm Settlement; Best Farm Estate; Overall Best Farmer. BATNF in collaboration with Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture gave the Award of Honour to the first-place winners in all the 10 categories.

### ...The grand finale

The week-long celebration came to an end in grand style at the Johnson Agiri Agricultural Complex, Oko-Oba, Agege on Sunday, 16th October 2016 where BATNF smallholder farmers, inputs producers, agro-processors and all the local government and local

### Pictures of the events



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(1). BATN employees at the take-off point of the Walk; (2). BATN employees and other volunteers on the street during the Walk; (3). Abisola Adefarati, Controllor, Commercial Finance Marketing, BATN; Maureen Ikeji, Area Head, SP&I, BATN; Uchenna Aneto, Area Talent Development Manager, BATN; Oluwaseyi Ashade, Executive Director, BATNF; Dr. Shakirudeen Onasanya, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Lagos State; Odiri Erewa-Meggison, Area Head, Government Affairs, BATN and Abimbola Okoya, General Manager, BATNF after the Walk Against Hunger; (4). BATNF beneficiaries displaying farm produce during the World Food Day celebration at Oko-Oba, Agege, Lagos State; (5). The BATNF Stand during World Food Day celebration; (6). Abimbola, Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor on Food Security, Mr. Ganiu Okanlawon; Secretary to Lagos State Government, Mr. Tunji Bello; Commissioner for Agriculture, Lagos State, Mr. Toyin Suarau and Oluwaseyi at the BATNF Stand during the World Food Day celebration; (7). Dignitaries at the Farmers' Forum in Badagry.

# The Foundation Day

The British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation on Monday, 17th October 2016, celebrated its second Foundation Day at the Rising Sun Building. The event, which was in continuation of celebrating the UN's World Food Day, had 8 BATNF beneficiary farmers displaying their farm produce which included fresh organic local rice from Bida, Niger State and Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, fresh

'garri' from Okolemo, Ogun State, fresh eggs from Abeokuta, Ogun State and fresh dried fish from Epe, Lagos State.

Visitors to the exhibition stand (BAT and BCG staff) were given the opportunity to buy fresh farm produce from the beneficiary farmers.



(1). The BATNF exhibition stand; (2). The BATNF team with Chris McAllister, Area Director, BAT and Freddy Messanvi, Area Head, LEX; (3). Chris exchanging pleasantries with the beneficiaries at the Farmers' market booth; (4). Farm produce on display and the beneficiaries; (5). A BCG staff at the farmers' booth; (6). Seyi, Tosin (Area Head of HR, BAT), Sola (Senior Counsel, LEX) and Abimbola at the farmers' booth; (7). BAT employees at the booth; (8). Mercy Ezenwegbu, Executive, TM&D Systems with her produce.



# BATNF collaborates with EDC

As part of its efforts to support the rural smallholder farmers in Nigeria, on Thursday, 17th November 2016, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, in partnership with the Enterprise Development Centre of Pan-African University organised a Dialogue Session to celebrate the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Week Nigeria at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The event which had the theme: 'The place of the smallholder farmers in the new economy' had the keynote address delivered by Mr. Innocent Azih, member BATNF Executive Working Group on behalf of its chairman, Professor Femi Ajibola.

Other activities at the 1-day event included 3 panel sessions with the topics: "Innovation in agriculture: The path for our next generation"; "The real opportunities for agropreneurs"; and "Funding your agric. Project". Mr. Fatai Afolabi, member, BATNF Technical Committee was a member of the panellists while Professor Femi Ajibola, chairman, BATNF EWG was the moderator of the 3rd plenary.

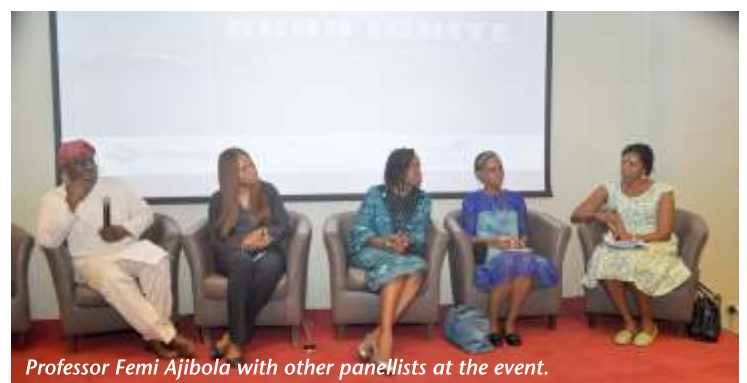
Over 200 participants across the agricultural value-chain attended the 1-day event.



*Mr. Fatai Afolabi, Mr. Mezuo Nwuneli, Dr. Michael Aderohunmu and Mrs. Sowemimo Olusola during a plenary session at the event.*



*Mr. Innocent Azih delivering his keynote address.*



*Professor Femi Ajibola with other panellists at the event.*

# Journalists visit BATNF Project



*The established cowpea mixed cropping with maize at one of the beneficiaries' farm at Doka.*

The third in the series of media tours of the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation's established model farms across the country took place on Thursday, 20th October 2016 with a visit to the farms of project beneficiaries at Bizara and Doka Communities in Zaria North Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Chika Izuora and Fabamise Olajide of Daily Independent newspaper accompanied by Tosin Ayinde of Xlr8, public relations agency, Tajudeen Akinwande of BATNF and the beneficiary farmers visited the 40-hectare maize and cowpea farms established by the farmers.

Isa Shuaibu, Chairman, BATNF Bizara Maize Farmers' Cooperative Society said that the intervention has done a lot in improving the

production and ultimately the income and social wellbeing of the farmers. *'Before the intervention, I was living at the family house, but now I have my own house with the money I made through the training received from the intervention.'* He added.

Another beneficiary, Malam Aminu Jafar said that with the intervention the farmers have improved their harvest tremendously. *'Before the intervention, we harvested less than 20 tons of maize per hectare but now we harvest over 50 tons per hectare. With the training received, we have started mixed cropping with cowpea. The beauty of the intervention is that we are no more slaves to the inputs dealers in our community who ripped us of our profit because of credit we received from them at the beginning of the planting season.'* He said.

*Malam Aninu jafar talking to journalists in his farm.*



*The beneficiaries at Bizara model farm during the visit.*



*Isa Shuaibu in his established farm at Bizara.*



*Malam Aminu jafar with his harvested maize in his farm at Doka.*





## And the winner is ...

**B**ritish American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation. These were the words of the presenter at the 2016 SERAs CSR Award -Africa when BATNF won the Best Company in Eradication of Hunger to beat other companies such: DHL, Sahara Group, Friesland Company, P & G and Nestoil Plc.

The BATNF entry for the Award category is the on-going BATNF/IITA 3-year Cassava/Maize Value-Chain Enterprise Development Project at Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State where 114 smallholder cassava and maize farmers are beneficiaries of the intervention.

The event, which took place on Friday, 11th November 2016 at the Shell Hall of the MUSON Centre, Onikan was in celebration of the 10th year anniversary of the Award which had over 150 entries from various African countries for 25 categories.

The annual BATNF-sponsored Best Company in Sustainability Reporting was won by Access Bank Plc.

Over 500 dignitaries across the African continent attended the annual event which had 'Sustainable Development Goals and the future of Africa: Organisations as the Game Changers.'



From left: Abimbola, Tolu, Chiago and Chiga, BATN employees at the event.



The BATNF beneficiaries: Mrs. Sidikat Adejumo from Otu, Oyo State and Mrs. Basirat Bamigboye from Ajara, Lagos State at the event.



From left: Tolu, Mrs. Bamigboye, Tajudeen, Abimbola, Mrs. Adejumo and Chiago after receiving the Award.

# BATNF visits the Minister

On Wednesday, 26th October 2016, the directors and management team of British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation made a courtesy visit to the office of Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh in Abuja.

The visit availed the team the opportunity to deliberate on some of the key challenges facing the rural farmers in Nigeria and presented the Minister with the Foundation's Executive Working Group report on key issues affecting smallholder farmers in Nigeria.

Chief Ogbeh when welcoming the team to his office, enjoined BATNF to support the Ministry to strengthen the capacity of the smallholder farmers across the country to through enhancement of capabilities of the extension agents. He said that through the agents, the capacity of the farmers to produce would be enhanced with the provision of right inputs, trainings and technical support in the rural communities through regular engagements.

Chris McAllister, Director, BATNF; Freddy Messanvi, Director, BATNF; Oluwaseyi Ashade, Executive Director, BATNF; Alhaji Lawan Aliyu, Government Relations; BATN; Odiri Erewa-Meggison, Area Head, Government Affairs, BATN; Abimbola Okoya, General Manager, BATNF and Dr. Sheu Ahmed, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development were all in attendance.



*Presentation of the BATNF-EWG report to Chief Audu Ogbeh by Chris during the visit*



*Freddy and Odiri during the visit.*



*Oluwaseyi and Abimbola during the visit.*



*Lawan Aliyu and Dr. Sheu Ahmed Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development during the visit*



*Lawan, Abimbola, Dr. Ahmed, Oluwaseyi, Chief Ogbeh, Chris, Odiri and Freddy in a group photograph after the visit.*

# BATNF donates to charity home

Saturday, 26th November 2016, shall continue to be a memorable date for the management and residents of The Care People Foundation's Motherless Babies Home, along Lagos - Ibadan Expressway, Ibadan, when volunteers of British American Tobacco Nigeria and British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation visited the Home and donated some items to the inmates. Items donated are 25 mackintosh mattresses, an electric-powered grinding machine and an engine-powered grinding machine.

Welcoming the volunteers to the Home, the matron, Mrs. Deborah Kenneth, gave a brief history of the Home and how the Home had been operational in giving succour to the vulnerable children of the society. She said that the present population of the inmates is 35 now with ages ranging from a month-old baby to 18 years old.

In his own remarks, Community Relations Manager, BAT Nigeria, Engineer Solomon Ogunde, enjoined the inmates to be of very good behaviour and always obey instructions from the Home matron and other teachers so that they can become responsible in

the future.

When presenting the items to the Home, General Manager, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, Abimbola Okoya, said that the donation was borne out of the interest of the Foundation in bringing smiles to the vulnerable of the society. She said that it is the Foundation's belief that the donation will go a long way in solving some problems facing the Home. Abimbola was assisted by Engineer Ogunde during the presentation.

In celebrating the yuletide season with the inmates, a Christmas carol was rendered to the listening pleasure of the audience by one of the volunteers, Joemary Onaji, a BAT employee.

Similar donations were made to Living Fountain Orphanage, Victoria Island and Moyinoluwa Rainbow Foundation, FESTAC in April and September respectively.

Donations to the homes were from the proceeds of the Foundation's Farmers' Markets.



The matron, Mrs. Kenneth delivering her welcome remarks during the visit.



Solomon Ogunde addressing the residents during the visit.



Facility tour of the Home.



Joemary Onaji rendering Christmas carol to the audience during the visit.



8 Presentation of the gift items to Mrs. Kenneth by Solomon and Abimbola



Group photograph of the volunteers with the residents of the Home.



# Lagos State fishery capacity building project takes-off

The 2016-2017 BATNF-Lagos State Fishery Capacity Building Project kicked off at Epe, on Tuesday, 29th November 2016 with the stakeholders meeting with representatives from the State Agricultural Development Program (ADP), local government areas of the targeted divisions, beneficiaries, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) and the implementing partner, Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI).

In his opening remarks, Dr Francis Toluyemi of ARMTI said that the meeting officially kicked-off the implementation of the fishery capacity building for 2016-2017 sponsored by BATNF. He emphasised the importance of the meeting to the stakeholders present and enjoined them to make meaningful contribution so as to set the right tone for the project implementation. He outlines the project plans for its activities and implementation.

Abimbola Okoya, General Manager, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, enjoined all present at the meeting to speak out, most especially in areas where they are experiencing challenges at their various value-chains. This, according to her, will assist ARMTI to come up with a comprehensive plan for the capacity building project.

The BATNF Manager in charge of the project, Tajudeen Akinwande, outlined the project strategy, roles and expectations of each of the stakeholders, which according to him, will lead to a very impactful implementation and give the required sense of belonging to all stakeholders.

The stakeholders expressed the present challenges they experience at their individual farms, suggestions and expectations from the project.

35 smallholder fish farmers representing the identified 50 farmers group cutting across the fish value-chain from Epe, Ikorodu and Badagry Divisions were present at the stakeholders meeting.



Representatives of beneficiary groups at the meeting.



Another section of representatives of beneficiary groups at the meeting.



Group photographs of beneficiaries at the end of the meeting.

# BATNF attends 3rd NEPAD Rice Forum in Abuja

On Tuesday, 6th to Wednesday 7th December 2016, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) attended, presented and exhibited at the 3rd Nigeria Rice Investment Forum organised by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Business Group Nigeria.

The 2-day event, which was held at Abuja Sheraton Hotel, co-sponsored by the BATNF, had as its theme: *2018 Self Sufficiency in Rice production: Opportunities, Challenges and the Road Ahead.*

In his presentation during the 3rd plenary session at the Forum, Mr. Innocent Azih, member, BATNF Executive Working Group, titled: *Enhancing the capacities of the rural actors in the Nigerian rice value chain*; highlighted the activities of the Foundation so far in supporting the rural smallholder rice farmers in the country through provision of technical support and capacity building.

Over 500 participants across the rice value-chain in the country attended the 2-day Forum.



The BATNF exhibition stand at the Forum.



Mr. Innocent Azih during his presentation at the Forum.



Abu Fari, Chairman, BATNF Rice Farmers Group; Bida, Abimbola Okoya, General Manager, BATNF; Mrs. Eniola Fadamiyo, vice-chairman, NEPAD Business Group; Malam Ibrahim Aliyu, Board member, NEPAD Business Group; and Princess Gloria Akobundu, CEO, NEPAD Nigeria at the BATNF exhibition stand.



Cross section of participants at the Forum.



# 2nd BATNF Farmers' Market at Ibadan Factory

The British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation's Farmers' Market train for the second time in 2016, arrived at the Ibadan Factory on Friday, 9th December with various farm produce from Epe, Lagos State; rice from Doka Community, Niger State; fresh 'garri' from Ago-Are, Oyo State and fresh eggs from Abeokuta, Ogun State.

With the subsidised prices of the fresh farm produce, staff of the Factory, completely purchased all farm produce provided by the BATNF beneficiary farmers.

Highly elated beneficiary from Ago-Are, Oyo State, Mrs. Rachael Adeniyi, a cassava processor, thanked the Foundation for a very rare opportunity given to them, not just empowering them to produce more but also open up both the institutional and open markets where they can sell all their produce. She enjoined BATNF to continue its efforts in assisting the smallholder farmers in making life more meaningful to the rural dwellers.



# Edo State Rice Capacity Building kicked-off

**W**ith the presence of 47 stakeholders along the rice value-chain in Edo State at the organised stakeholders' meeting held at the premises of Edo State Agricultural Development Program zonal office, Auchi, Etsako West Local Government on Tuesday, 13th December 2016 marked the take-off of BATNF 2016-2017 Dry-season Rice Capacity Building Project in the State.

The project which focused on best agricultural practices in dry-season rice production, will train 300 lead farmers from identified 150 groups of smallholder rice farmers and other actors in the value-chain in land preparation, procurement of high-yield disease resistant rice seeds, nursery preparation, trans-planting, spacing & weeding techniques, applications of organic & chemical fertilisers, application of aflasafe, water management, harvesting, post-harvesting handling, book keeping, group dynamics & management, linkages to open and institutional markets. It will also avail the beneficiaries with training opportunities in cultivation of



*Stakeholders during the meeting.*

rice throughout the year.

Over 4,500 smallholder rice farmers from Estako West, Esan South-East and Estako Central benefitted indirectly from the capacity building project based on comparative advantage they have in rice production.

Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI), a capacity building agency of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is the technical partner of the 1-year project.



*Stakeholders in a group photograph after the meeting.*

## FACTS ABOUT AGRICULTURE

The Nigerian soil and climatic condition is very suitable to produce wide varieties of crops, there are over a hundred different food crops produced by farmers in Nigeria on a yearly basis which include yam, maize, millet, sorghum, beans, potatoes, rice, onions, cabbage, carrot, pear, cocoa, cocoyam, okra, vegetables and many others.

Agriculture in Nigeria could use a little push at strategic points if success is to be achieved, there is a need for the education of farmers. Most farmers in Nigeria who engage in subsistence agriculture have very little knowledge of the operational method of the improved agricultural system. If farmers in Nigeria are provided with the necessary tool and adequate resources, there will be gross improvement in the Nigerian agricultural sector; the land will be properly utilized and this will greatly reduce the high level of food importation and ultimately increase employment rate.

Livestock farming is a very important aspect of agriculture in Nigeria, the Nigerian community depends mostly on meat from cows and chicken. Meat in Nigeria is an important part of the Foods in Nigeria, it is suitable to say that Nigerians don't cook food without meat or fish as protein sources.

There are lots of problems hampering the production of food crops in Nigeria and rearing of animals, chiefly among them is electricity. Over 40 percent of Nigeria perishable goods get spoilt after harvest due to the lack of electricity needed for storage and processing.

*Source: total-facts-about-nigeria.com*