



BRITISH AMERICAN
TOBACCO NIGERIA
FOUNDATION

Empowering rural Nigeria
for a sustainable future

GreenTalk

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BATNF receives ISO 9001:2015 conformity certification

The British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) on Monday, 21st August 2017 received the NIS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) from the management of Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON). The event, which took place at the head office of the Foundation, in Ikoyi, was as a result of the BATNF's certified conformity to International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) Quality Management System (QMS) requirements for certification and accreditation.

'We are now ISO 9001:2015 certified for the quality of support we provide to rural smallholder farmers in Nigeria through the promotion of agriculture for food security, poverty alleviation, environmental conservation and protection of the farming communities' stated Mr. Yusuf Ageni, a member of the BATNF Board of Directors.

Abimbola Okoya, Executive Director, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, during her remarks said that BATNF has spent

over N1 billion to empower farmers in rural areas to ensure sufficient farm produce. According to Okoya, the Foundation has over 150 programmes across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, which is aimed at empowering rural smallholder farmers with Capacity building program, technical supports and fund.

'At SON, we believe that today's ceremony marks a significant milestone in the history of the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation. Your support and implementation processes are very commendable hence your conformity with the NIS ISO 9001:2015. Your service offering in strengthening the capacity of community-based farmers, cooperative and agro-enterprise associations, this is very important to Nigeria, especially in the face of the prevailing economic challenge in the country' said Engineer Obayi Bede who represented Mr. Osita Aboloma, the Director-General, Standards Organisation of Nigeria.



Engr. Obayi Bede (left), representative of Director-General, SON, presenting the certificate to Mr. Ageni Yusuf, Director, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation.



Olubadan of Ibadan Land, HRM, Oba Saliu Adetunji and other dignitaries during the commissioning of a water project donated to Popoyemoja Community in Ibadan.

Olubadan of Ibadan Land commissions BATNF borehole in Popoyemoja community

The British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) and Olubadan of Ibadan Land on Wednesday, 9th August 2017 commissioned the Popoyemoja Community borehole in Ibadan South-East Local Government Area of Oyo State. The facility, which was built in front of the palace of the Olubadan of Ibadan, HRH, Oba Saliu Adetunji, Aje Ogungunniso 1, was constructed to ease the burden of potable water supply in the area.

'We had perennial water challenge in this community and were very pleased to get a quick response from the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, when we requested their support' said HRH Oba Saliu Adetunji, Aje Ogungunniso 1.

The Foundation has invested N227.5 Million in ensuring that communities in rural Nigeria have access to clean and portable water. The facility which was handed over to the community today, is the third water borehole to be donated to communities in Ibadan, the fifth in Oyo State and the sixty sixth in Nigeria. It includes a drilled borehole, a 6,000 litre capacity storage tank, a submersible pump, a generating set, 6 units of water dispensing taps and reticulation pipes to the water storage tanks and the water dispensing units.

'It is our great expectations at BATNF, that the borehole being handed over today, will solve many of the problems associated with limited supply of portable clean water in the community' stated Lolade Johnson-Agiri, the General Manager of British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation.



HRM, Oba Saliu Adetunji, Olubadan of Ibadan Land receiving the Handover Certificate from Lolade Johnson-Agiri, General Manager, BATNF at the event.

NiMET-BATNF partnership: Promoting sustainable agriculture through public private partnership



Abimbola Okoya, BATNF's Executive Director receiving the donated rain gauge instrument from Mr Ibrahim Ishiyaku, NiMET's Head of Weather Forecasting Services Department.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) defines public private partnership for agribusiness development as "a formalized partnership between public institutions and private partners designed to address sustainable agricultural development objectives, where the public benefits anticipated from the partnership are clearly defined, investment contributions and risks are shared, and active roles exist for all partners at various stages throughout the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) project life cycle."

This is what makes the partnership between the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMET) and the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) a development worthy of emulation.

The agreement, which was signed earlier in the year between the two organizations to provide technical support, weather information as well as training for BATNF field officers, was brought to fulfillment at a formal occasion held recently at the Leaf Head Office of the BAT Iseyin Agronomy Limited, Iseyin, Oyo State. Rain gauges and measuring cylinders were presented to the BATNF by NiMET at the event.

In an opening address, the Executive Director, BATNF, Abimbola Okoya, observed that the signing of an MoU in February 2017 officially sealed the long-standing collaboration the Foundation has with NiMet. She revealed that the event marks a significant milestone in gathering data on rainfall at the selected communities where BATNF supports rural smallholder farmers in Oyo State. Okoya also disclosed that, through the partnership, NiMet has supported the Foundation to train farmers and extension agents in Kaduna, Benue, Gombe and Niger states in the current farming season. She also expressed gratitude to NiMet for the unwavering support and commitment in making the collaboration a success.

The Director General/CEO NiMet, Prof. Sani Abubakar Mashi, who was represented by the General Manager/Head of Weather Forecasting Services Department, Mr Ibrahim Ishiyaku, described the event as both "a demonstration of the agency's support for the Federal Government Food Security Programme and a practical commitment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with BATNF."

While expressing optimism that the event would translate to better forecasts for farmers and guarantee improved yields, he advised BATNF to ensure that the equipment are well manned and promised that the agency would also train field officers of the BATNF on the use of the weather instruments for climate monitoring.



Abimbola Okoya, BATNF's Executive Director, Mr. Ibrahim Ishiyaku, Lolade Johnson-Agiri and Thomas Omofoye at the event.



BATNF, BAT Leaf Office and NiMET employees at the event.



Mr. James Adamu of NiMET during training session on the usage of the rain gauge instrument.



Farmers' Market at Abuja and Ibadan

On Friday, 5th May 2017, the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation's Farmers' Market arrived at Abuja with fresh farm produce such as farm-fresh rice from Doko, Niger State; fresh ljebu garri from Ago-Are, Oyo State; fresh eggs from Abeokuta, Ogun State and fresh dried fish from Kabba Community in Kogi State. The produce were on displayed during the BAT Nigeria Marketing Conference for the North-West and North-Central geopolitical zones of the Country.

At the close of the Conference, which took place at the Bolton White Hotel, Garki, Abuja, the employees picked up their pre-ordered farm produce and other employees who did not pre-ordered, had the opportunity to purchase various farm produce at the event.

Similar event took place, for the third time, on Thursday, 27th July at the car park of BAT Factory in Ibadan where fresh farm produce was sold to the employees by the beneficiary farmers present at the event.

The objective of the activities is to provide a sustainable platform for the BATNF beneficiary smallholder farmers across the country to enhance their income through sales during the Farmers' Market and networking with internal stakeholders. Also, the quarterly event was designed and implemented to provide the BAT employees avenue to purchase farm-fresh produce at competitive prices, promotion of

healthy living among the employees and that of their families through consumption of organic fresh farm produce.

The highlight at Ibadan was the presentation of the first prize to Chinedu Nwoke who came first in the quiz competition for the BAT Ibadan employees to commemorate the August edition of the Farmers' Market.



The BATN Foundation team.



4 *Chinedu Nwoke receiving his prize from Abimbola Okoya, Executive Director, BATNF.*



Bernard Konwea, BAT Nigeria Area Lead, IWS Operations purchasing a pack of fish at the Farmers' Market booth in Ibadan.

It is harvest time !

Over 300 rural small holder farmers participated in the BATNF Maize capacity development project across 3 of the 6 area councils in Abuja, Kwali, Bwari and Gwagwalada. The objective of the project is to train smallholder maize farmers on best agronomic practices in maize production so as to improve their yield and ultimately, their income. To demonstrate the benefits of modern farming using high quality seeds, a 0.5ha of maize demonstration farm was established in the 3 area councils.

After a year of trainings, supply of improved seeds, other farm inputs and establishment of demonstration farms, all farmers were gathered for the harvest and it was a bounty harvest of 52, 000 cubs of Vitamin A bio-fortified maize per demonstration farm against the typical 24,000 cubs of traditional farming.

It is expected that as an outcome of this capacity building project, the farmers will increase their productivity and income through the practical training received and inputs supplied.



The Farmers during harvesting at Cheichei Community, Kwali Area Council.



"We did not believe we could harvest 52,000 cubs of maize from the same 0.5ha of farm size until now. Before the training, we used to harvest between 20,000 to 24,000 cubs of maize on 0.5ha of land. Each of the maize stalk produces 2 big cubs as against 1 average-size cub we are used to with our traditional practice." Ibrahim Dauda Wako, a BATNF supported farmer at Gada-Biu Community in Abuja.



Group of beneficiary farmers at Gada-Biu Community, Kwali Area Council during harvesting of the demonstration farm.



Presentation of inputs to one of the female beneficiaries of the 2017 Kaduna State Maize Enterprise Project at Anchau Community, Kubua Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

BATNF supports farmers with N71 million

In continuation of fulfilling its objectives - *Empowering rural Nigeria for a sustainable future* - the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) kicks off its 2017 agricultural value-chain enterprise projects at selected states across the country. The activities which started with identification and selection of local government areas and cooperative groups in 10 states of the Federation with a goal of enhancing the production capacity of the rural small holder farmers through access to production enhancing technologies, inputs support, market linkages and enhancement of the farmers' income. The States are: Benue, Niger, Ekiti, Kaduna, Adamawa, Taraba, Yobe, Borno, Oyo and Bauchi States.

At the flag off ceremony of Kaduna State Maize Enterprise Project, the Director, Agric. Services, Kaduna State Agricultural Development Program, Mallam Yakubu Umar, enjoined the beneficiaries to make the best use of the opportunity offered by BATNF to improve their lots. He made it known that BATNF, despite the harsh economic has committed fund for the program in order improve the social and economic well-being of the small holder farmers.

Umar charged the lead farmers present to ensure that the technology

transfer is practiced among their group members and neighbouring farmers to ensure wider acceptance and adoption.

The Project Manager, BATNF, Olusegun Adewole stated during the training program of Oyo State Cassava Enterprise Project at Ilero Community that one out of every market Nigeria, consumes cassava derivatives which implies that the market for cassava is available but the production level is low. He urged the farmers to make use of the golden opportunity offered by the program to develop their skills so as to improve their income as farming is the Future of Nigeria.

The interventions are in maize, cassava and rice value-chains.



Beneficiary smallholder farmers with other stakeholders at Ilero Community, Oyo State that attended the training program organised by BATNF in collaboration with IFDC.

‘In 2017, BATNF has built the capacity of 18,000 farmers to adopt best agricultural practices’

In the process of developing and strengthening the skills and knowledge of smallholder farmers across the country, the BATNF’s capacity building projects kicked off at various locations aiming at increasing the farmers’ productivity and income.

The British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) 2017 agricultural value-chain capacity building projects kicks off at the selected states across the country. The activities which were kicked-off with stakeholders' meetings in 5 states of the Federation has as its objective: to build the production capacity through trainings on best agricultural practices of 300 direct lead smallholder farmers and 4,500 indirect smallholder farmers in each of the states. The States are: Ondo; Plateau; Gombe and Abia States with maize and cassava value-chains for Ondo; vegetable value-chain for Plateau; maize value-chain for Gombe and cassava value-chain in Abia.

‘With the capacity building program of BATNF, the smallholder maize farmers in Gombe state now have the opportunity to improve their yield, increase their income and support other farmers within their communities, most especially with communities where the issue of internally displaced people is very rampant.’ These are the words of Mrs. Habibat Muhammed, State Project Coordinator, Gombe State FADAMA Coordination Office when the BATNF-Gombe State 1-year Maize Capacity Building Project for 2017-2018 farming season kicked off at Conference Hall of Gombe State FADAMA Coordination Office, Gombe on Thursday, 6th July 2017.

She thanked the Foundation for supporting the smallholder maize farmers in the state. She said that the 1-year capacity building



Participants during the kick-off ceremony of the 2017 BATNF-Plateau State Vegetable Capacity Building Project.

project came at the critical time when the state government geared all efforts towards increasing the food production to meet the high demand as a result of influx of internally displaced people from neighbouring states into the state.

Tajudeen Akinwande, BATNF's Communications and Events Manager said that the Foundation is also partnering with the HarvestPlus of International Food Policy Research Institute on how best the smallholder farmers can produce maize fortified with vitamin A. According to him, planting the fortified with vitamin-A variety will produce a better crop, gives better nutritional value to consumers and increase the income of the farmers since the variety is in high demand by the institutional markets for drugs and cereal production.



Selected smallholder maize farmers from Gombe State during the stakeholders’ meeting.



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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

Where we support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

