



BRITISH AMERICAN
TOBACCO NIGERIA
FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING RURAL NIGERIA
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation
2, Olumegbon Road, off Alfred Rewane Road, Ikoyi, Lagos.
E-mail: BATN_Foundation@bat.com
Tel: +234 7046002000; +234 7046002033

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BRITISH AMERICAN
TOBACCO NIGERIA
FOUNDATION

ISSUE 12
MARCH 2019

GREEN TALK

NEWSLETTER

RURAL AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | ADVOCACY | PARTNERSHIP

Dear Partners,

We are pleased to share the 12th edition of the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation Newsletter.

Looking back, 2018 was exhilarating, from the launch of our 4-year strategic plan called the country program to the maiden edition of the World Food Day Lagos Farm Fair – a business platform created to provide market linkage for rural smallholder farmers; from our livelihood support to the Edo state Libya returnees to humanitarian aid to communities in crisis, the impact we made and the joy we brought to the lives of our beneficiaries is unmatched.

In the pages of this newsletter, you will read about Ijemba community, a population of about 25, 000 without steady access to clean water, many of whom were forced to fetch from the stream to enjoy basic needs like drink water or take a bath; you will read about Abosede Adeniyi a smallholder farmer who struggled for years to take care of her household but now has the ability to employ workers and many more stories like this that depict the interventions we provide as a Foundation and our priority towards those living in rural communities.

We trust you would enjoy reading these life changing stories as much as we have enjoyed creating them through our projects. We would love to hear from you, please send your comments or inquiries to BATN_Foundation@bat.com or call 0708 8145 072. You can also follow us on [facebook/twitter/Instagram @batfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/BATNFoundation) or visit our website, www.batnf.com to know more about the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation.

Cordially,
Ololade Johnson-Agiri
General Manager, BATN Foundation

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Building Infrastructure For Sustainable Enterprises



Ago-Are, an agrarian community in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, has a population of about 600,000 people. A variety of food crop is cultivated from maize to cassava but a high percentage of harvested farm produce especially cassava, is lost due to poor market linkage and product value add – processing. In closing the gap, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation established a cassava processing cottage to support smallholder farmers.

Abosede Adeniyi is a cassava farmer that cultivates a little above 1 hectare of farm land. She is a beneficiary of the cassava processing cottage and has 3 children. *'Every year, I am at risk of losing my profit because of the nature of cassava. If I keep it in the soil for too long it loses its starch content, if I harvest without a buyer, it will lose its starch content'* she said.

Cassava is a food crop that can be processed into a variety of food and industrial products like Garri, Fufu, and starch. Once processed, these products have more market value and a longer shelf life and most importantly, removes the pressure on smallholder farmers to sell at a loss because of the risks they face.

“With the donation of the cottage



industry we sell what we want and add value to the rest. We process over 3 tons of cassava tubers into different derivatives daily” Abosede said.

During his visit to the cassava cottage in Ago-Aare, Chris McAlister a Director of BATN Foundation commended the farmers for putting the facility into good use. “I am pleased the cassava cottage has lifted the burden to sell your farm produce at unreasonable and unprofitable prices” he said, “but most importantly I am pleased you are able to generate additional income to move you from subsistent to commercial farming, I wish you continued success”.

BATN Foundation has established 28 cassava processing centres across Nigeria and continues to empower rural smallholder farmers with good agricultural practices and technical skills to lift them out of poverty.

PHOTO GALLERY



A SECTIONAL VIEW OF THE WATER TANKS IN IJEMBA



SOME BENEFICIARIES OF THE NEW BOREHOLE SYSTEM IN IJEMBA



A PRESENTATION OF BEADS MADE BY BENEFICIARIES OF THE EDO STATE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROJECT



REPRESENTATIVES OF BATN FOUNDATION, EDO STATE TASK FORCE AND BENEFICIARIES WITH H.E GODWIN OBASEKI THE GOVERNOR OF EDO STATE



MS. ABIMBOLA OKOYA, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BATN FOUNDATION PRESENTING TO H.E GODWIN OBASEKI THE GOVERNOR OF EDO STATE



SEWING MACHINES DISTRIBUTED TO BENEFICIARIES OF THE EDO STATE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROJECT



MS. ABIMBOLA OKOYA, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BATN FOUNDATION PRESENTING A SEWING MACHINE TO ONE OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE EDO STATE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROJECT



MAKEUP BOXES DISTRIBUTED TO BENEFICIARIES OF THE EDO STATE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROJECT



SNAPSHOT OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE MAIDEN EDITION OF THE WORLD FOOD DAY LAGOS FARM FAIR



EMPOWERING YOUTHS AND RESTORING LIVELIHOODS TO RETURNEES IN EDO STATE

I have to thank the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation for the second opportunity given to me to get my life back on track. Since I came back from my ill-fated journey to Libya, it's been difficult to get support', said Innocent Edegbe, one of the returnees from Libya who tried to illegally migrate to Europe in search for a better life.

The quest for a better life and the attempt to escape poverty has influenced a major segment of Nigeria's population to seek economic liberation for themselves and their families outside the shores of the country. This elusive search for greener pasture abroad can effectively be tackled when viable alternatives are made available to engage and empower the youths.

British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation as part of efforts to support young people and the socio-economic development of Nigeria in general, partnered with the Edo State Government through the Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking to support the livelihood restoration of the returnees through vocational skills acquisition and the donation of working tools to start their journey to financial freedom.

In partnership with GeniusHub, 100 returnees were trained for a duration of 3 months in the following vocational skills: Tailoring, Welding, Beadmaking, and Makeup Artistry. Working tools were also purchased for

each returnee based on their vocational skill of choice, with a common workplace rented and set up to practice their trade cost-free for a year.

During the hand-over ceremony Abimbola Okoya, the Executive Director of BATN Foundation said 'the intervention implemented under the BATN Foundation *Wealth is Here* initiative was to encourage the youths to believe in Nigeria and leverage on the country's resources to create wealth'. She enjoined the beneficiaries to make best use of opportunity they have now to regain the lost grounds. 'I'll like to thank Genius Hub our implementing partner for a job well done and the Edo State Government for the opportunity to make a difference in the State, she added.

Earlier, the Foundation team paid a courtesy visit to the State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki at his office. He thanked the Foundation for the collaboration with the State. He enjoined the Foundation to continue the good work and seek for more collaboration in creating employment opportunities for the returnees in the State.

BATN FOUNDATION HOSTS SEASONAL RAINFALL PREDICTION TRAINING/SENSITIZATION FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS



The British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation held a Downscaling of the 2019 Seasonal Rainfall Prediction Training/Sensitization for smallholder Farmers in three states – Oyo, Kebbi and Kaduna, in February through April, 2019. About 700 farmers across these locations were sensitized about climate change and best time to plant for optimum yield.



Facilitating the sensitization session was James Ijampy Adamu, assistant Chief Meteorologist, Nigerian Meteorological Agency, an agency under the Federal Ministry of Transport (Aviation), responsible for observing, analyzing, timely and accurate reporting of weather and climate information to sectors of the economy that are most vulnerable to changes in weather such as agriculture, environment, health, water resources, power generation and distribution and tourism, for socio-economic development and safety of lives and property.

During the trainings, farmers were educated on the importance of weather forecasting in crop planning, and the benefits of timely weather and climate information. They were informed about the onset and cessation period, the amount of rainfall expected, and the length of the rainy season in the year 2019. Farmers were encouraged to adopt afforestation as one of the measures to combat global warming, make use of irrigation on their farms during the dry spell and encouraged tree planting around their homes and farms.

At all the training centres, farmers were trained on the pre-season operations which include land preparation; nursery establishment/management; plant spacing; water management; herbicide & pesticide management; fertiliser application; pest management and harvesting.



FARMERS SELL OUT IN THE
1ST WORLD FOOD DAY LAGOS FARM FAIR

The British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATN Foundation), in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture and Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc organised the 1st World Food Day Lagos Farm Fair at Nigeria Police College parade ground Ikeja GRA on Tuesday, 16th October to mark the 2018 United Nations' World Food Day.

The Fair, which is an initiative of the BATN Foundation's 'Wealth Is Here' campaign seeks to drive access to market for rural smallholder farmers across all agricultural value-chain and provide an income-generating platform to encourage other players along the value-chain to engage in agriculture and enhance agric-business skills. The Fair also provided a platform

to expose farmers to opportunities in the city without the financial burden or risks involved, while enabling the public to buy fresh and organic farm produce.

The fair was an agricultural festival as it witnessed the assemblage of smallholder farmers across all value-chains from the 57 local government areas of Lagos State and beyond displaying agricultural produce ranging from livestock, aquaculture to crops.

The fair will be held annually to celebrate the world food day and to encourage an income generating platform to move smallholder farmers from subsistence to commercial agriculture.



Providing Access to
Clean Water

The British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATN Foundation) commissioned and handed over a solar powered borehole to Ijemba Community in Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State. The facility was constructed to ease the burden of limited access to potable water supply in the community.

The water facility which includes a 10,000-litre capacity water storage tank, solar panels, water management kiosk, solar submersible pump and security wire fence is the first in Iseyin LGA and the second in Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State. 'It is our expectation that the solar powered borehole we are handing over to you today will bring an end to some of the challenges facing the community members like the perennial problem of access to clean water' said Lolade Johnson-Agiri, the General Manager of BATN Foundation.

In his response, Honourable Abiodunb Olasupo, member, House of Representatives, Federal Republic of Nigeria, who was represented by Honourable Afeez Adeleke of Oyo State House of Assembly, thanked the Foundation for her quick response to the request for assistance. 'On behalf of Ijemba Community, I want to thank you for your quick response to our call for assistance in solving the potable water shortage facing our community. As we all know that this project is the first of its kind in Iseyin LGA, we promise to ensure it is

properly maintained to meet the objectives of the donation,' he added.

Earlier in his visit to the project, Chris McAllister, a member of the Board of Directors of BATN Foundation, thanked the community members for their warm reception and enjoined them to sustain the project. 'I hope the project will bring you good fortune and improve your lives' he said.

