



BRITISH AMERICAN  
TOBACCO NIGERIA  
FOUNDATION

GREEN TALK

# NEWSLETTER

RURAL AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | ADVOCACY | PARTNERSHIP

## Editorial

Mask on. I trust that we are all keeping safe!

The year 2020 has created a new normal and changed our lives as we know it; making the year interesting and challenging as the world continues to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. This year, through the pandemic, we have been reminded of how interdependent we all are, how closely knit the world is and that we need each other to succeed, regardless of what success means to you.

During the lockdown, the agricultural sector remained one of the most vibrant sectors in Nigeria. It contributed 24.6 per cent of the GDP in the second quarter of 2020, doing better than the previous quarter and the same quarter last year.

This edition highlights the Foundation's role in helping farmers face the challenges posed by the pandemic as well as the relief donations made to flatten the curve. You will read about how the Foundation is adapting to 'the new normal' and delivering on its mandate despite the crisis.

We hope you will enjoy reading this as we enjoyed writing it. Kindly send your comments or inquiries to [BATN\\_Foundation@bat.com](mailto:BATN_Foundation@bat.com) or call 08028298284. You can also follow us on Facebook/twitter/Instagram @batnfoundation or visit [www.batnf.com](http://www.batnf.com) to know more about the Foundation.

Cordially

Ololade Johnson-Agiri  
General Manager

## IN THIS EDITION

**Covid-19  
Relief Donations**

**Ensuring  
Food Safety and  
Zero Hunger**

**Virtual  
Implementing  
Partners  
Workshop**

**BATNF Supports  
Rice Farmers  
in Jigawa**

**First Virtual  
PSAG Meeting**

# FIRST EVER VIRTUAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS WORKSHOP HELD

**A**ccountability remains a key ingredient in any success story, The more accountable we are, the more accountable our teams will become and the more success we can achieve.

To ensure success and accountability of our projects, an annual implementing partners workshop was conceptualised in 2015 to review project activities, critically assess achievements, challenges and most importantly take learnings.

However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 workshop was hosted virtually.

With this model, the Foundation had its 2020 implementing partners workshop with key partners and collaborators contributing immensely to the success of the workshop. This year's workshop witnessed a significant improvement in the output recorded by partners. Enterprise development programmes recorded an average of about sixty-eight percent (68%) increase in yield across commodities such as rice, maize and cassava. A seventy-four percent (74%) repayment rate was achieved on the 'revolving grant model' employed by the Foundation under the Seed, Nutrition and Market project implemented in Kaduna (Maize), Oyo (Cassava) and Kebbi (Rice).

With the various projects implemented in 2019, a total of 32,616 beneficiaries were reached.

## BATN FOUNDATION HOSTS THE UN PSAG 1ST VIRTUAL MEETING

**T**he British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation hosted the first virtual meeting of the Private Sector Advisory Group Nigeria (Cluster 5 – Agribusiness). Virtual meetings have now become the new normal since the Covid-19 pandemic and people and organizations now hardly conduct physical meetings to contain the spread of the virus.

The meeting which had in attendance, international and local partners, was conveyed to collectively take account of the social impact of member organisation and establish new frontiers in our commitment to support the youth and rural poor in sustainable agribusiness development and nutrition for all.

Interesting project initiatives like the 'The Business of Agriculture' were discussed and will be implemented soon. Once done, these concepts may bring revolutionary changes to agribusiness development especially amongst smallholder farmers.



# IRRIGATION, A WAY OUT FOR FARMERS IN JIGAWA STATE

For the past two consecutive seasons, farmers in Damanagawa, Jigawa state have struggled to have a successful wet farming season due to the challenges of climate change. Smallholder farmers have resulted in harvesting crops prematurely and used them for fodder as a result of floods on the farmlands. This situation has limited the growth of their financial capacity and ability to increase their farm size for cultivation.

To alleviate the challenges that these farmers faced, BATN Foundation introduced a climate smart agricultural intervention to support dry season farming. This includes the drilling of 100 tube wells on 100 hectares of land and the donation of water pumps to preselected farmers.

This intervention resulted in the farmers achieving an average yield of about 4.5 metric tonnes per hectare and at the end of the project, 352.9 metric tonnes (4,706 bags) were sold out to aggregators and other off-takers. At the time of harvest, the going cost for paddy was up to N226,000.00 per metric tonne. All farm produce were sold off apart from those set aside for personal consumption.

Alhaji Sabo Dede, one of the beneficiaries couldn't hold back his excitement after recording an outstanding yield. "When I was doing wet season farming, floods always destroy my farmland and I was in so much debt but with this support from BATN Foundation, I was able to farm in the dry season. Now that I have sold my paddy and settled all my debts. I was also able to sew clothes for my family during the Sallah (Eid El Kabir) celebration and my life is filled with joy and happiness" he said.



**I was able to farm in the dry season. Now I have sold my paddy and settled all my debts.**



Farmers receiving irrigation equipment from BATN Foundation implementing partner, Green Sahel And Rural Development Initiative



Beneficiaries of the BATN Foundation intervention working on their rice plantation.

# ENSURING FOOD SAFETY AND ZERO HUNGER

//  
I am  
expecting  
a bumper  
harvest and  
will be  
smiling to  
the bank.

One of the major ways the Foundation supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is by supporting small holder farmers to transit from subsistence to commercial agriculture. In doing this, the Foundation provides grants to farmers to subsidize the cost for this transition and the skills needed to improve their livelihood.

Hence, during the COVID-19 pandemic and while ensuring safety procedures were completely adhered to, the Foundation in partnership with Abia state Fadama distributed certified rice seeds to smallholder farmers in the state.

Amongst the 500 benefiting farmers, Mrs Virginia Ejiofor. Virginia ventured into farming at a very young age due to the death of her parents "I struggled to make ends meet because most times, I fall short of her expected yield" she said; "At the end of the day, most of my farm produce are what I and my family feed on because I don't have enough money to buy the things or to increase my farm. Now that BATN Foundation has trained me in the way to farm and also donated seeds for me to plant more rice, I am expecting a bumper harvest and I will be smiling to the bank."

British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation has prioritized the development of sustainable agricultural enterprises to transition rural smallholder farmers like Virginia, from subsistence to commercial farming while also providing resources and the skills they need to adopt good agricultural practices.



Farmers receiving rice seeds from BATN Foundation implementing partner, Abia State FADAMA

# DONATION OF COVID-19 RELIEF MATERIALS



Representative of the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation donating the items to Oyo state Government.

The COVID-19 pandemic has given rise to a lot of unprecedented government and private interventions and British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation also played a part in the fight against the spread of the virus with a donation of relief materials worth over ₦35 million to Lagos and Oyo state governments.

To help flatten the curve against the virus in Lagos state, BATNF donated 10,000 hand sanitisers to be used by frontline workers at various isolation centres in the state.

Relief materials were also donated to support poor communities and isolation

centres in Oyo State. These relief materials include 12, 000 bags of rice and garri and 3 mobile contactless hand wash stations.

With this donation, the Foundation hopes to support the feeding of at least 6,000 indigent households (with a bag of rice and garri each) and provide preventive support to health workers in the State's isolation centres, with the facility to wash their hands regularly.



Lagos emergency Agency receiving hand sanitisers from BATN Foundation



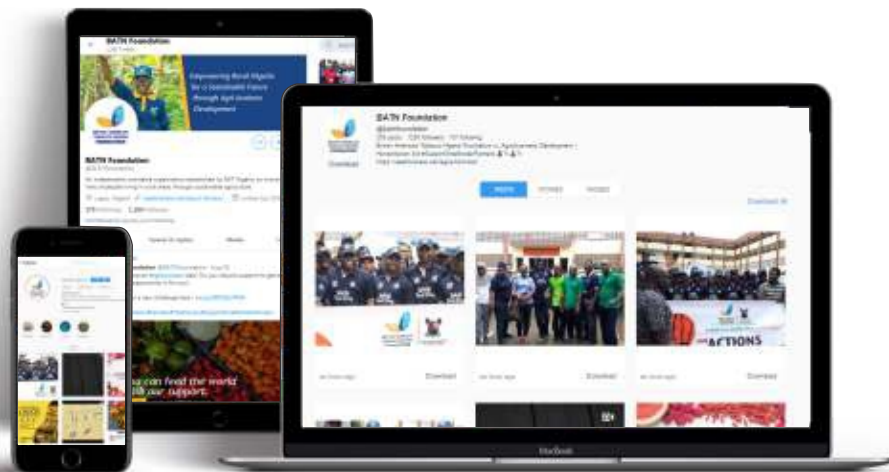
Mobile contactless hand wash station



BRITISH AMERICAN  
TOBACCO NIGERIA  
FOUNDATION

# *EMPOWERING RURAL NIGERIA...*

*for a sustainable future*



**@batnfoundation**

📍 **British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation**  
2, Olumegbon Road, off Alfred Rewane Road, Ikoyi, Lagos.

✉ **BATN\_Foundation@BAT.com**

☎ **+234 7046002000, +234 7046002033**