



BRITISH AMERICAN  
TOBACCO NIGERIA  
FOUNDATION

GREEN TALK

# NEWSLETTER

RURAL AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | ADVOCACY | PARTNERSHIP

## Editorial

Dear Partners,

The year 2023 started with a lot of expectation and opportunities and we at the Foundation are not only hoping for the best but also strategizing to impact more lives and help alleviate the hardship in rural communities through agricultural support interventions.

We finished 2022 on a high and all we achieved wouldn't have been possible without your constant feedback and support; and we are indeed grateful. Notable amongst our year 2022 final quarter interventions is the donation of irrigation equipment to farmers in Abuja for all-year-round farming., you will also read about how we empowered women vegetable farmers in Ebonyi state with mechanization equipment to help reduce drudgery, improve production and sustain their livelihood and also the empowerment of a hearing impaired fish farming cooperative amongst others in Lagos state with processing kilns.

We hope this special edition of the 'GREEN TALK' Newsletter puts a smile on your face as you also get to view images of our activities from various projects.

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/Instagram/Twitter/YouTube @batnfoundation or visit [www.batnf.com](http://www.batnf.com) to know more about the Foundation.

Yours Cordially

**Oludare Odusanya**  
General Manager

## IN THIS EDITION



**Fish Farmers Benefit from the Fingerlings to Fork programme**



**Making A Difference in Ebonyi State**



**DBS Wins Golden Buzzer Challenge**



## 220 FISH FARMERS BENEFIT FROM FINGERLINGS TO FORK PROJECT IN LAGOS

In a bid to empower and support fish farmers in Lagos State, the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATN Foundation), in partnership with Lagos State Agricultural Development Authority has donated eleven smoking kilns to Fish Farmer cooperative groups, including those with impaired hearing comprising over 220 members.

The partnership initiated since 2018 aims at building the capacity of fish farmers under the Fingerlings to Fork Project and the donation of smoking kilns as part of an effort to prevent post-harvest loss and support the socio-economic development of smallholder farmers in the state.

In her opening remarks, Ololade Johnson-Agiri, the Executive Director of the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, explained that the Foundation's support to farmers over the years has shown that, in addition to teaching farmers best agricultural practices for optimized fish production, it is vital to provide market access and empower them to add value to their commodity in order to be immune to price volatility.

The handing over ceremony, which was held at Lagos State Agricultural Development office, Oko-Oba Agege, had in attendance government officials, fish farmers' groups, cooperative societies across the state as well as members of the press.

Ms. Ruth Abisola Olusanya, Lagos State Commissioner of Agriculture, who was represented by Mrs Kosoko Tawakalitu Enitan, the Programme Manager; Lagos State Agricultural Development Authority, in her

keynote address, challenged the benefiting fish farmers to make good use of this opportunity to actualize fruitful fish processing in the state and reiterated that this project is supporting the Lagos State government in its effort to ensure food sufficiency and security across major agricultural value chains.

The Commissioner also used the opportunity to call on other organisations to emulate the BATN Foundation by collaborating with the state in its drive towards ensuring food security in the state.



*The Executive Director, Ololade Johnson-Agiri handing over the certificate of ownership to a beneficiary at the smoking kiln handover ceremony in Lagos state.*

## FINGERLINGS TO FORK PROJECT IN LAGOS Cont'd...

In closing, the Permanent Secretary, Kosoko Tawakalitu Enitan who was represented by the Director of Technical Services, Dr. Isaiah Oladipo Opadokun stated that LSADA is committed to impacting the lives and livelihood of farmers in the state and this partnership is a testament to its resolve to solve major bottleneck inhibiting the growth of these farmers. He further stated that since the inception of the fingerlings to fork project, over 814 beneficiaries have been trained in the modern technology of fish farming and management and four smoking kilns provided. He noted also that this

year's donation is different because, unlike previous years where only a kiln is provided, eleven kilns have been fabricated for distribution to cooperative groups.

On behalf of the recipients, Kingsley Njoku, Vice-President of the Lagos State Deaf Farmers' Cooperative, thanked the Lagos State Government and British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation for their generosity especially for including people with disability as part of the training and recipients of the smoking kilns. He stated that this is the first time the term 'inclusivity' means something to them and pledged that all members of the cooperatives would have access to the facilities.

resilience to ensure food security in the State. He continued by stating how the use of this tiller will significantly reduce drudgery and promote more decent engagement in farming practices. Furthermore, he reiterated the Foundation's commitment to improving the lives of those in rural areas, particularly smallholder farmers across the federation including the FCT.

The CEO of Young People's Dream Initiative (YPDI) while thanking the Head of Engineering, ADP for technical assistance during the training also added that the engineering team will also be available to further assist the women with the maintenance of the tillers.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN FARMERS IN EBONYI STATE

**A**s we go about our daily lives, we often take for granted the equipment and resources that make our work easier and more comfortable. From medical equipment to sports gear, these items are essential to our well-being and our ability to pursue our passions and interests. However, for many people in our communities, access to these resources is limited or non-existent, especially those living in rural areas. This necessitated the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation's (BATN Foundation) timely intervention in Ebonyi state.

BATN Foundation in partnership with the Ebonyi State Ministry of Agriculture and the Young People's Dream Initiative (YPDI) trained 200 women farmers on climate-smart agricultural practices and empowered them with five 7HP power tillers for effective land preparation and farm management.

Benefitting farmers were selected from three senatorial zones in the state, especially towns in lowland areas like Uburu/ugwulangwu,

Ukwagba and Ohachara Amasiri. The farmers were introduced to Sawah technology for rice farming and vegetable gardening, improved nursery practices, fertilizer application (Time of application & dosage) as well as actual field demonstrations on how to use the power tillers.

During the handover of the tillers, the General Manager of BATN Foundation, Oludare Odusanya celebrated the beneficiaries on their

One of the beneficiaries, Mrs Mercy Igbo of Ugwuagba cluster thanked the Foundation for the support and stated this is the first time they will be beneficiaries of any intervention without a political undertone. "Prior to this, all assistance we have received was from politicians who want our votes but now, we are being empowered by people we don't know, and we are indeed grateful," she said. Mrs Mercy added that the tiller will go a long way to reducing the cost of land preparation and the money can be used for something else.



Oludare Odusanya, GM, BATN Foundation inspecting the 7HP tiller with beneficiaries and staff of YPDI

# SUSTAINABILITY WEEK: DBS WINS GOLDEN BUZZER CHALLENGE

**D**igital Business Solutions (DBS) emerged winners of the 2022 Golden Buzzer Challenge held during the 2022 Sustainability and Foundation week in British American Tobacco Nigeria.

The Sustainability and Foundation Week is an annual event designed to raise awareness about sustainability and educate employees about the impact of our community investment initiatives nationwide. The highlights of this year's event with the theme 'Building a Sustainable Business' culminated in the golden buzzer challenge. The golden buzzer challenge is an inter-functional game designed to educate staff around sustainability and assess information retention on internal comms deployed during the sustainability week.

The game featured questions drafted from 3 categories – Social Impact, Environmental Management and Good Governance and from the BATN Foundation theme song, 'wealth is here' composed by the award winning Cobhams Asuquo. The various departments in BAT apart from LEX selected a representative to compete for the bragging rights on which department is more conversant with the ESG agenda of the organization. After a keenly contested session, DBS, represented by Cindy Otunoye emerged winner with a total of 33.5 points.

Speaking at the end of the competition, the Marketing Director, Ademola Omitayo praised the Corporate Affairs team for putting up a well-planned event and also congratulated every participant and encouraged them to get involved in the sustainability agenda of the organization.



# BATN FOUNDATION BOOSTS FARMERS' PRODUCTIVITY WITH IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

**A** MIDST the daunting challenges thrown up by devastating flood impact in the agricultural sector, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, (BATN Foundation), recently, provided irrigation equipment (water pumps and accessories) to twenty-five (25) Smallholder Irrigation Farming Clusters of over 200 members in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

Explaining why it became necessary for the empowerment of farmers, the Director of the Federal Department of Agriculture, Engr Abdullahi Abubakar, represented by Deputy Director, of Irrigation Agriculture and Crop Development, Federal Department of Agriculture, Sugra Mahmood, in a keynote address at

the handing over ceremony in Gwagwalada pointed that the empowerment, in collaboration with the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, was aimed at supporting farmers with Irrigation equipment to expand their farming activities.

In his words, he stated that "the Federal Government of Nigeria is committed to supporting the agricultural sector, in order to realize its potential of driving an inclusive economic growth, achieving food and nutritional security and also creating job opportunities for the unemployed population."

Representing BATN Foundation, Engr. Sadiq Waziri, the implementing partner for the project stated that the devastating effects of climate change are a global menace with varying

degrees of impact in each country. For example, in Nigeria 34 out of 36 states was affected by the recent floods which have displaced over 1.3 million people, rendering many farmers in agony over millions of farmlands submerged in water. The distribution of pumps to smallholder farmers is designed to help them cope with climate change adaptation, so whether there is drought or flood, it will not prevent them from farming." Engr. Waziri said.

While assuring farmers in other parts of the country of the continued support from the BATN Foundation, he noted that this irrigation intervention will also be implemented in other parts of the country as the FCT was used to kickstart the intervention.

## Agriculture Riddles



Which country is the largest producer of cassava?

- (a) Nigeria      (b) Thailand      (c) Cameroon      (d) Ghana



Which of these plants belong to the cabbage family?

- (a) Spinach      (b) Lettuce      (c) Rapeseed      (d) Sorrel



Which is the most produced grain in the world?

- (a) Maize      (b) Rice      (c) Wheat      (d) Millet





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# *EMPOWERING RURAL NIGERIA...*


*for a sustainable future*



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