



BRITISH AMERICAN
TOBACCO NIGERIA
FOUNDATION

GREEN TALK

NEWSLETTER

RURAL AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | ADVOCACY | PARTNERSHIP

IN THIS EDITION

Dear Partners,

I am pleased to present to you the ninth edition of the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) Green Talk Newsletter.

In the year 2017, the Foundation made tremendous progress in empowering smallholder farmers to create and build viable businesses, for long-term economic growth. We supported 18,000 smallholder farmers, collaborated with the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMET) to help farmers understand the weather conditions for optimal harvest, got certified for our quality management processes by the Standards Organization of Nigeria, are cluster leads on the private sector advisory group on the United Nations sustainable development goals, partnered with international development agencies to expand our technical reach, and lots more.

The highlight of this edition however, is the hosting of the 2nd dialogue session on smallholder farmers, donation of smoking kilns to fish farmers in the South South region and the celebration of the 2017 World Food Day.

I trust you will find this edition insightful. For comments, questions or inquiries about our activities, do not hesitate to call 0708 814 5072 or email batnf_administrator@bat.com

Cordially,

Ololade Johnson-Agiri
General Manager, BATN Foundation



BATNF hosts 2nd Dialogue Session -Pg 1



Donation to Benue State flood victims -Pg 3



World Food Day celebration -Pg 4



Donation of smoking kilns -Pg 5



From left: Engr. Olagbaju Akeju, representative of the Minister for Agriculture; Mr. Bashiru Adesiyun, a BATNF beneficiary farmer; Dr. Babatunde Oribimah of Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL); Mr. Innocent Azih, member, BATNF Executive Working Group and Professor Chidi Ibe, member, BATNF Technical Committee during the panel discussion at the Dialogue Session.



Empowering smallholder farmers will improve agric business development
- H.E Chief Audu Ogbeh



At the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) 2nd Dialogue Session on smallholder farmers held in Abuja on Tuesday, 21st November 2017, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh said smallholder farmers are the engine of agricultural production in the country and the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) is focused on empowering them along the agricultural value-chain for rapid agric business development. He was represented by Dr. Olagbaju Akeju, a director in the Ministry.

The Dialogue Session engaged key stakeholders in the agricultural sector to deliberate on the implementation of the Federal Government's Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) so as to suggest strategies that will improve the productivity of the smallholder farmer.

During the panel discussion, discussants responded to issues raised on climate change, finance and the APP policy as they impact the smallholder farmers. Thereafter, participants broke into five groups: sub-national implementation\land issues; harvest & post-harvest losses/waste management; capacity building & access to improved

technology; business environment & access to finance and climate change & environmental issues.

At the end of the Session, participants made recommendations that will ensure the implementation of the Federal Government's agricultural policy that will impact positively on smallholder farmers and also enhance the value-chain for shared prosperity.

"The Dialogue Session is a platform to project the challenges and proffer solutions to issues facing smallholder farmers who are often left behind" noted Abimbola Okoya, the Executive Director, BATNF Foundation. "The Foundation has increased support to smallholder farmers by 200 percent, improved their agricultural practices through capacity building, provided access to finance through input contribution and linkage to markets and ultimately aimed to move them from subsistence to commercial farming," she said.

The event was attended by over 100 participants across the private and public sector, academia research institutions and the development sector.

BATN Foundation supports fish farmers with smoking kilns worth N8 million



Presentation of the smoking kiln to one of the benefitting groups -Umusadege Fish Farmers Society, Kwale LGA, Delta State during the event.

British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 donated 8 units of 180kg capacity fish smoking kilns to 400 smallholder fish farmers from Ondo, Edo, Delta and Cross Rivers States.

The event, which was the closing ceremony of a week-long training program for selected lead fish farmers for the states was in

collaboration with USAID MARKET II to support the smallholder fish farmers cooperative groups through training, capacity building, provision of inputs and grant to develop the rural economies by increasing the farmers' production, income, reducing post-harvest losses through value addition and ensuring rural household food security.

"With the donated smoking kilns, it is certain that we would be delivered from the shackles of market speculators who capitalise on market gluts to rip us off our profits"

- Mr. Lucky Iriguedo, Chairman,
Tenog Fish Farmers Multipurpose
Cooperative Society



The beneficiaries at the packaging training session.



BATN FOUNDATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT CELEBRATED THE 2017 WORLD FOOD DAY IN STYLE

In the world today, most especially the developing and non-developed countries, malnutrition and hunger are two major challenges. Despite all active measures being taken by governments all around the world, billions of people remain at the risk of hunger. In efforts to raise awareness about food security and encourage agric business development, BATN Foundation, in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders, in a week organise a series of activities in celebrating the 2017 World Food Day.

To further enhance its support for the beneficiary smallholder farmers, the Foundation availed them the opportunity to interact with major stakeholders in the sector, displayed and marketed their farm produce during the week-long event which activities includes a 4.2km road walk tagged: Walk for Food Security which took place on October 5. Volunteers from BAT Nigeria participated in the event; Farmers' Forum at Epe where a member of BAT Nigeria Foundation Executive Working Group, Mr. Innocent Azih presented a paper on the theme: changing the future of migration, invest in food security and rural development; and the grand finale on October 16 2017 where the Foundation beneficiaries displayed their farm produce.

The Foundation Day celebration at the BAT Rising Sun Building culminated the 2017 World Food Day on October 17. A farmers'

farm produce were displayed and sold to BAT employees.

As an active player in rural community and agricultural development in Nigeria, BATN Foundation, in 2017, spent over N100m in supporting 27,000 rural smallholder farmers with capacity building, inputs supply, agric extension services and establishment of model farms across the country.



“Apart from the fact that the BATNF sponsored 1-year oil-palm capacity building project in my State (Imo) has impacted us, the Foundation has gone ahead to provide access to market for our produce; the climax of all is that this is my first time in Lagos ”

-Mrs. Livina Dikeocha, BATNF beneficiary at Ngor Okpala Community, Imo State

The Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG), on Tuesday, October 21, 2017, joined other public and private organisations to celebrate the 2017 UN Day at an event and exhibition organised by the office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The PSAG Group established in 2017 by the Vice-President was represented by BATN Foundation and Sahara Group.

Exhibitors from both the public and private sectors participated at the event. All the 17 goals of the SGDs were aligned with by the participants. BAT Nigeria Foundation and Sahara Foundation that represented the Private Sector Advisory Group of the SDGs exhibited under the SDG goal 17.

The theme of the event was: Sustainable

BATN Foundation represents the PSAG at the 2017 UN Day celebration

Development Goals: Their effects on human rights implementation in an ever-changing environment.

The anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter on 24 October 1945 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. It has traditionally been marked throughout the world by meetings, discussions and exhibitions on the achievements and goals of the Organization.

In 1971, the General Assembly recommended that Member States observe it as a public holiday.



Mr. Adebayo Shittu, Nigeria's Communications Minister (middle) at the PSAG Stand. To the left is Lolade Johnson-Agiri, General Manger, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation.

DONATION OF RELIEF MATERIALS TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN BENUE STATE

British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) has donated 200 bags of rice and clothing items given by staff as part of the relief effort for victims of the recent floods in Benue State, Nigeria.

The rice donated will feed the affected families for six months or for the duration of their stay at the "displaced persons camp" in the capital of Benue State, Markurdi - set up in the wake of torrential rain, which led to a month-long flood.

Cutuwe Okiewa (pictured below with the BATNF's Lolade Johnson-

Agiri and Abimbola Okoya), is more than 100 years old and one of the survivors of the flood that devastated communities in Benue State, which sits in the mid-belt of Nigeria. Cutuwe, one of the 110,000 people displaced by the flood, lost her house and all her possessions.

"When we heard of the flood, the number of lives affected, homes lost and businesses ruined, we knew we had to intervene", said Freddy Messanvi, Area Head of LEX. "We also knew we shouldn't do it alone, so we reached out to colleagues and their excitement and feedback was amazing. We are pleased to have extended our support to the people and Government of Benue State, our support shows that they are not alone."

The relief items were received by the Governor of Benue State, His Excellency Dr Solomon Ortom, in a formal ceremony at the Government House. In his remarks, he noted the role of the private sector to support both economic and humanitarian aid activities, especially in times of crisis.



From left: Lolade Johnson-Agiri, GM, BATNF; Abimbola Okoya, ED, BATNF; Madam Bauwa, a 75-year old victim of Benue State flood; her 125-year old mother, Madam Cutuwe Okiewa, a flood victim and Abimbola Okoya, Executive Director, BATNF during the BATNF visit to the internally displaced people's camp in Makurdi.



A cross-section of participants at the Dialogue Session



Mr. Yusuf Ageni, member, BATNF Board of Directors delivering his remarks



Lolade Johnson-Agiri, General Manager, BATN Foundation delivering her closing remarks



The team: from left: Eduvie Martin; Rosemary Umeh; Tajudeen Akinwande; Lolade Johnson-Agiri; Abimbola Okoya; Olusegun Adewole and Chidinma Iniomon



From left: Lolade Johnson-Agiri, GM, BATNF; Abimbola Okoya, ED, BATNF; Engr. Joseph Tertumum, Benue State Commissioner for Water Resources & Environment and Mr. David Olofu, Benue State Commissioner for Finance when BATNF donated 200 bags of 50kg rice and clothing to flood victims in the State.



From left: Director Agricultural Services, Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs. Abiola Ayoade; General Manager, BATN Foundation, Lolade Johnson-Agiri; Special Assistant to Lagos State Governor on Food Security, Mr. Ganiyu Sanni; Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Olayiwole Onasanya and Executive Director, BATN Foundation, Abimbola Okoya during the Road Walk to celebrate 2017 World Food Day at Ikeja.



Harmony Multi-purpose Agro-Processors Cooperative Society receiving their BATNF 2017 Best Agro-Processor Award from Mr. Ganiyu Sanni.



Cross-section of BAT Nigeria employees at the Farmers' Market Stand.



BATN Foundation team with the beneficiary farmers during World Food Day celebration at Agege.

The Farmers' Market Show

¹Wow, new products at the farmers market, palm oil and chicken !



How fresh is this chicken? I trust Foundation sha, everything is fresh from the farm

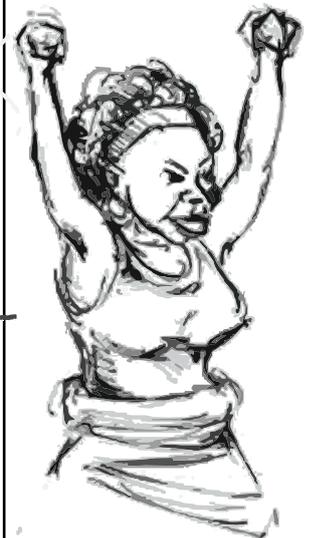


This same food again? But I am hungry...



...yummy, this tastes NICE. Sweetheart, where did you get the oil and chicken?

Our Farmers' Market at the office



¹BATN Foundation creates access to markets for smallholder farmers through its periodic Farmers' Market



**BRITISH AMERICAN
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FOUNDATION**

**EMPOWERING RURAL NIGERIA
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

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