



BRITISH AMERICAN
TOBACCO NIGERIA
FOUNDATION

GREEN TALK

NEWSLETTER

RURAL AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | ADVOCACY | PARTNERSHIP

IN THIS EDITION

Dear Partners,

We are pleased to present to you the 10th edition of the Greentalk newsletter.

Agriculture is the new oil and smallholder farmers are no doubt critical stakeholders in the transformation agenda of the agricultural sector. Beyond economic development, they are essential to the realization of the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty and hunger. While they account for 70% of all locally consumed agricultural produce, they are most often left behind.

Through our diverse interventions, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation is empowering farmers to establish and build agricultural enterprises using proven business models for sustainability. In this edition you would read about our activities through the compelling stories of some of our benefitting farmers. You will learn about how we empower farmers to reduce post-harvest losses caused by climate change and how we collaborate with other development partners in the sector to empower rural Nigeria for a sustainable future.

Please send your enquiries or comments by email to BATN_Foundation@bat.com or call 07088145072.

We are convinced you would find this edition insightful and we look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially

Ololade Johnson-Agiri
General Manager



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BATNF Foundation contributes to NiMet's 2018 seasonal rainfall predictions

ON Tuesday, 13th March 2018, the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMET) presented the 2018 Seasonal Rainfall Predictions (SRP) to stakeholders in a well-attended event at Ladi Kwali Hall, Sheraton Hotels & Towers, Abuja. BATN Foundation through its partnership with NiMet provided support in the collection of rainfall data on its project sites in Oyo state. The data was collected using the rain gauges donated by the Nigeria Meteorological Agency.

The presentation of the seasonal rainfall predictions is an annual event aimed at presenting to the public the nation's weather outlook for the year. The recent weather variation in Lagos, Sokoto and other parts of the country is proof that times have changed and the weather is no longer as predictable. This makes the seasonal rainfall prediction apt, especially for development organizations like ours, who make investment in the agricultural sector by supporting rural smallholder farmers, the predictions guide some of our strategies to mitigate losses caused by environmental disasters; these include poor harvest, low yields and return on investments.

The Director-General of NiMET, Professor Sanni Mashi disclosed that the Agency's 2018 Seasonal Rainfall Predictions (SRP) indicated that normal rainfall patterns would be experienced this year. He said that severe dry spells would be experienced during the rainy season, especially in some parts of Northern Nigeria.

The Seasonal Rainfall Prediction would be cascaded down to smallholder farmers. Through the BATN Foundation and NiMet partnership, our farmers and implementing partners would be trained on the Seasonal Rainfall Predictions and its application. We anticipate that through this activity, all stakeholders would be conscious of the onset and cessation of rainfall and dry spell periods and invariably there would be successful outcomes in the reduction of loss occasioned by climate change.



The Executive Director, BATN Foundation, Abimbola Okoya (left); Honourable Minister of State for Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika (middle) and other dignitaries at the launch of NiMET's 2018 Seasonal Rainfall Prediction.

DIFFERENT STROKES

INSIDE KABIRU'S FARM

What am I going to do again to this farm? I planted when the rain set in; applied fertilizer and adopted good agricultural practices....

...We have had just 2 heavy rainy days 0 and none in 4 weeks. My crops are dying!

AT MOSUNMOLA'S FARM

Mosunmola, did you appease the gods of the land. Look at your maize farm, they are doing perfectly well ...but mine isn't, I am fed up!

Kabiru, I told you to wait for the information on seasonal rainfall prediction from NiMet and BATN Foundation, but you did not. The result is what you have.

Poor, displaced and hopeless, *Jibir Shuaibu* regains his lost life

Mallam Jibir Shuaibu is a native of Gadana Tinja Village in Fika Local Government Area of Yobe State. In 2014, Shuaibu was among millions of people internally displaced by the Boko Haram crisis. His property was destroyed and without any means of livelihood, he and his family were forced to stay at the Internally-Displaced People's (IDPs) camp at Damaturu.

In providing support to displaced persons, BATN Foundation collaborated with IFAD-CASP (Yobe State office) in 2017, to implement a livelihood support project. As a beneficiary of this project, Shuaibu received both training and all the agricultural inputs needed to start a farm including: 4 bags of 50kg fertilisers, 50kg rice seed, 2 litres of herbicides and technical support.

At the end of the farming season in December 2017, Shuaibu harvested 1.9 tons of rice from his 0.45-hectare farm. Proceeds from his sale were used to rebuild his burnt house, feed his family and restore his dignity.

Mallam Jibir Shuaibu is an example of the many lives BATN Foundation has changed through its interventions in North-East Nigeria.



Shuaibu and his burnt house before the intervention



Shuaibu and his renovated house after the intervention

4th Implementing Partners' Workshop held

...to review the 2017 program year



Participants at the Workshop.

ON Wednesday, the 21st of February, 2018, British American Tobacco Nigeria (BATN) Foundation hosted its fourth annual Implementing Partners' Workshop In Lagos Nigeria. The 2018 implementing partners workshop was an opportunity to review activities carried out in the year 2017, to critically assess achievements, challenges and most importantly take learnings from best practices.

The implementing partners workshop was conceptualized in the year 2015 and has been an annual gathering of partners, collaborators and other relevant institutions in Nigeria whose mandate is on agricultural development in Nigeria. The workshop is part of the strategy of the Foundation to ensure a

successful outcome of all projects from conceptualization to implementation.

Abimbola Okoya, the Executive Director of BATN Foundation, while declaring the workshop opened said the Foundation will continue to compliment the Government of Nigeria's efforts to promote food security and poverty alleviation through its enterprise development and capacity building projects across all states of the Federation.

The workshop had in attendance 22 implementing partners made up of government institutions, development agencies and the private sector.



Group photograph of participants at the Workshop.



For Halima Ahmad

...it is a new beginning

Hajia Halima Ahmad, a widow with 3 children, lives in Tarila District of Yola South Local Government Area of Adamawa State. She and other thousands of her tribe migrated to Yola in 2015 after being displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency. Halima is a peasant mixed farmer cultivating crops and keeps livestock before the attack which destroyed her household, her farm and her livestock business.

In 2017, BATN Foundation, in collaboration with Adamawa State FADAMA III AF II supported Halima and other 99 internally-displaced people in Adamawa State through a livelihood support project. She was supported with training in livestock best practices, 3 female goats (nanny) and 1 male goat (buck). One year after, she is celebrating her success as a widow because the 3 nannies reproduced 7 kid goats. The young ones have grown up, she also indicated that the mature ones are pregnant and would soon have kids.

In the near future, Halima indicated that the animals would assist her as she would sell some out and use the money realised to solve her immediate domestic needs. The funds raised would also be used to send her children to school and expand her agricultural enterprise.

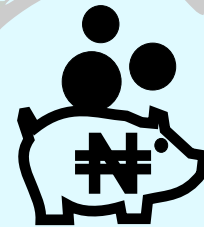
Halima is an example of the many lives BATN Foundation has changed through its interventions for the IDPs in North-East of Nigeria.



I can send my children to school and expand my agricultural enterprise

175

Million naira invested
in supporting
smallholder farmers



20

Crop enterprise and capacity
building projects were
implemented across the country
in 20 states

5

Crops were cultivated:
maize, rice, cassava, fishery
and livestock



2,132

Smallholder
farmers were
supported

372

Hectares of farmland
were cultivated





3,593

Tons of farm
produce were
harvested

20%

Increase in the income
of benefitting
smallholder farmers

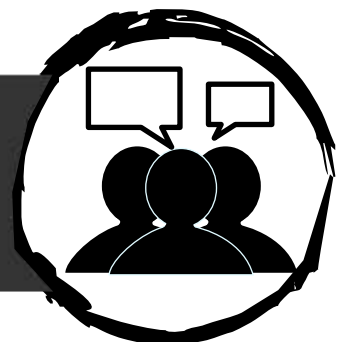


17

International and national
institutions were supported

1

Dialogue session on National
agriculture and smallholder farmers
was held on our advocacy platform



4

Farmers' Market held to
increase linkage to market for
farmers



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EMPOWERING RURAL NIGERIA FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



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