

PROJECT 106511 COLLABORATES WITH GERMAN STUDENTS THROUGH THE DAAD

As part of the intercontinental nature of this project, two students from German Universities have undergone internship with Project 106511. In September/October 2011, the German DAAD posted Mr Jonas Fischer of the University of Landau, Germany to the Osun State University, Osogbo to work with Prof Clement Adebooye on the baseline survey and commencement of on-farm agronomic studies under Project 106511. Also in September/October 2012, the German DAAD also posted Ms Josephine Figiel to Osun State University, Osogbo to work on gender assessment and community monitoring. Ms Figiel also participated in on-farm agronomic studies across southwest Nigeria. All the associated costs relating to airfare, subsistence and sundry expenses were fully provided by the DAAD, Germany.



Ms Josephine Figiel from Germany posted with UIVs Farmers at Inisha



Mr Jonas Fischer of the University of Landau, Germany with UIVs farmers during baseline survey

LEAF DISEASES NOTED ON UGU, TETE ATETEDAYE AND IGBAGBA

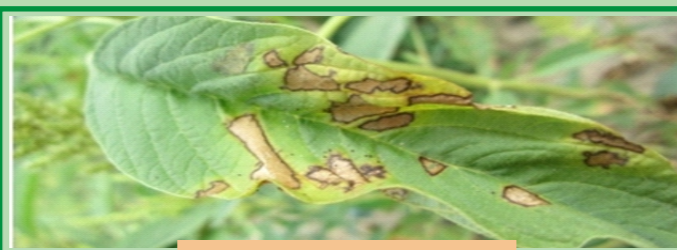
Some potentially dangerous infections have been observed on the leaves of Igbagba, Ugu and Tete atetedaye at on-farm project sites. Efforts are on to study the etiology, epidemiology and control of the diseases by our pathologists.



Ugu infected leaves



Tete Atetedaye infected leaves



Tete Atetedaye infected leaves

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Principal Investigators

Nigeria Canada

Prof. D. J. Oyedele Dr Thomas Bouman
Prof. O. C. Adebooye Prof. O. O. Akinremi
doyedele@oauife.edu.ng thomas.bouman@cbu.ca
ocadebooye@daad-alumni.de Wole.akinremi@ad.umanitoba.ca

Dr Pascal Sanginga

IDRC Project Coordinator & Snr. Program Specialist

ASSOCIATE SCIENTISTS

Dr. Richard Watuwa	Prof. K. Adekunbi Taiwo
Adj. Prof. Robert Eilers	Dr. Mary K. Idowu
Prof. Martin Scanlon	Dr. O. Peter Agbola
Prof. Adeolu Ayanwale	Dr. O. Chi Nwoke
Dr. F. Olanike Deji	Mrs Kaothar Alabi
Prof. Dixon Olu. Torimiro	Dr O. K. Adekunle
Dr. Titus Gbenga Alao	Dr B. J. Amujoyegbe
Dr. Julius Olatunde Ayinde	

Editorial Board

Prof. Dixon Olu. Torimiro (*Chairman*)

Dr. Titus Gbenga Alao

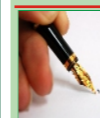
Dr. Julius Olatunde Ayinde

For Enquiries: E-mail: torimiro@gmail.com; Tel: +234803 395 3651

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EDITORIAL



Human wants are insatiable, therefore NiCanVeg project beneficiaries want to scale up the project beyond 2014. This edition offers insight into further collaboration between the project and students from IAR&T in Nigeria and DAAD in Germany. It also covers some field activities.

FARMERS INTERACT WITH DR SANGINGA..... "WE WANT THIS PROJECT TO BE SCALED UP AND EXTENDED BEYOND 2014"

It was a scintillating time for Dr Sanginga at 4 sites in Oyo State, two sites in Osun State and two sites in Ondo State when farmers tried to convince him that Project 106511 will benefit the resource-poor farmers more if the IDRC-CRDI funding support is extended beyond 2014. They claimed that the project is just beginning to produce positive impacts on their indigenous vegetables farming enterprise and that they should not be "weaned" at this crucial moment. The farmers told Dr Sanginga that the vegetable business is booming and that awareness is being created. The market is growing and that scaling up should be the next plan to extend the knowledge of UIVs cultivation to a larger group of farmers in southwest Nigeria, and even Nigeria at large.



Dr Sanginga, the Project Coordinator with UIVs farmers at Akanran

INTRODUCTION OF "UGU" AND "IGBAGBA": A BLESSING FOR US, ...WE SUPPLY "UGU" TO ABUJA MARKETS.

The efforts of Project 106511 to introduce "Igbagba" and

"Ugu" to farmers has been commended by farmers at Ibadan, Inisha, Ikirun and Osogbo project sites. The farmers praised the efforts of Project 106511 during the visit of Dr. Sanginga, IDRC Programme Officer. Farmers told Dr. Sanginga that they were not planting these two vegetables before because they lacked the basic production knowledge. Extension of the production knowledge on these vegetables by Project 106511 has made a big difference in the revenue being realized by the farmers. As of today, across the southwest Nigeria, these two vegetables are the most sought after and the most expensive. The farmers are full of praises to Project 106511. In a boastful manner, Project 106511 women farmers based in Akure sites told Dr. Sanginga that they supply vegetables to markets outside Ondo State. "We supply Ugu to Abuja, Owena and parts of Osun State. We are grateful to Project 106511 for supporting our business and for giving us new ideas on vegetables production. We don't want this project to stop in 2014. We want to continue to see the scientists. They are great people who encourage us all the time. Their frequent visits and meetings with us serve as tonic to drive us forward in our farming work."



UIVs female farmers' sharing their experience with Dr Sanginga (Project Coordinator) and Professor Adebooye (UNIOSUN Principal Investigator) at Akure

INTERNS FROM COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (IAR&T) AT AKANRAN PROJECT SITE FOR TRAINING

The Federal Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Moore Plantation, Ibadan, Nigeria has posted six (6) National Diploma students of the institution to undergo practical experience on indigenous vegetables production at the field site of Project 106511, located at Akanran, Oyo State Nigeria. At one of the training sessions, the scientists on the project took the students through practical aspects of land preparation, seed treatment, drilling, broadcasting and irrigation system. The students are five (5) female and one (1) male.



IAR&T Students, UIVs farmers and Professor Adebooye (UNIOSUN Principal Investigator) at Akanran

UNIOSUN AND OAU TRAINEES AT MANITOBA AND SYDNEY

Eight members of UNIOSUN and five members of OAU project teams arrived at the University of Manitoba and Cape Breton University in April/May 2013 for training on hands-on skills that would impact positively on Project 106511. The trainers are Prof. Thomas Bouman and Dr. Richard Watuwa from Cape Breton University while Prof. Wole Akinremi, Bob Eilers and Prof. Martins Scanlon are the trainers from the University of Manitoba. Undergoing training at the Cape Breton University are: Mr. Kazeem Olalekan (UNIOSUN), Mrs. Kwathar Alabi (UNIOSUN), Dr. Peter Agbola (UNIOSUN), Mr. Oyeyimika Ogunwale (UNIOSUN), Mr. Busari Ahmed (UNIOSUN), Dr. Titus Alao (UNIOSUN), Dr. Olanike Deji (OAU), Prof. Dixon Torimiro (OAU) and Mr. Kabiru Shittu (OAU). At the University of Manitoba, the following team members are undergoing training: Dr. Chike Nwoke (UNIOSUN), Mrs. Bukola Fakayode (UNIOSUN), Mr. Mayowa Adelekun (OAU), Mrs. Ololade Adeyemo (OAU) and Mr. Dapo Babatunde (Field Officer).



OAU and UNIOSUN trainees with Dr Thomas Bouman (CBU Principal Investigator) and Dr Richard Watuwa (CBU)

Project 106511 receives royal blessings

On July 26, 2013, the Ifesowapo Indigenous Cooperative Society was launched at Okuku, Osun State. Okuku is in the derived savannah zone of southwest Nigeria. The Chief Host at the launching was the Royal Highness, The Olokuku of Okuku

(Oba Oyeronke Oyenike) while the Chairman was the Vice-Chancellor, Osun State University (Prof Bashir Okesina). The Olokuku eulogized the scientists and the funding agency for selecting his community as one of the beneficiaries of the project. He prayed fervently for the success of the project. The Cooperative Society has been officially registered with the Government while the training sites at Okuku have commenced activities. The farmers were supplied with farm inputs, including irrigation pumps, hoses, sprayers, cutlasses, hoes, seeds etc.



The Olokuku of Okuku (Oba Oyeronke Oyenike), Vice-Chancellor, Osun State University (Prof Bashir Okesina) and Prof. Adebooye at the Inauguration of UIVs Cooperative Society at Okuku

CBU and UoM Teams Visited Participating Farmers in Nigeria.....Cooperative groups, Savings Education and Advanced On-farm studies top agenda.

Two Masters of Business Administration students (Ms Tanya Duff and Ms Julia Carter) from the Cape Breton University visited participating farmers in Nigeria between June 14 and 28, 2013. Together with Nigerian teams led by Dr (Mrs) Olanike Deji, the two students participated in administration of questionnaire on mid-term project impacts and also carried out training on savings culture. The trainings were done at Akanran, Akure, Ogbomosho and Ile-Ife project sites.

Also, Profs Wole Akinremi and Martin Scanlon of the University of Manitoba were in Nigeria between June 21 and July 8, 2013 to work with the Nigerian teams on site selection for advanced on-farm work and preparations towards the next technical report and end of the third year project meeting which will be held at the Osun State University, Osogbo. The two scientists visited participating farmers and fields that are to be used for the next on-farm studies. The sites were evaluated for suitability. A meeting of the Canadian partners and the entire Nigeria team was held where

issues related to team work, budget adjustment and project delivery were discussed. During the visits, the Osun State University signed MoU with CBU.



Ms Tanya Duff and Ms Julia Carter from the Cape Breton University and Dr (Mrs) Olanike Deji (OAU) during Savings Education training at Akanran



Prof Martins Scanlon of the University of Manitoba sharing views with Akanran UIVs Farmers



Akanran UIVs farmers' sharing their experiences with Prof. Akinremi (MoU Principal Investigator)

SPOT IRRIGATION AND SPOT FERTILIZER APPLICATION-A WAY OF OPTIMIZING WATER AND NUTRIENT SUPPLY

Participating farmers in Project 106511 at Akure sites are innovative in the area of water and fertilizer use during the dry season. The farmers are specialist in "Ugu" production. During the dry season, the farmers dig round hole around the Ugu plant (about 5 cm deep and 5 cm wide) and supply water and fertilizer to the plant by filling the hole. Based on the advice of Project

106511, farmers apply only one small tea-spoonful of fertilizer to the plant. These two approaches reduce water wastage and also reduce fertilizer wastage through broadcasting.

FERTIGATION: AKANRAN FARMERS EMPLOY INNOVATION TO BOOST VEGETABLES PRODUCTION

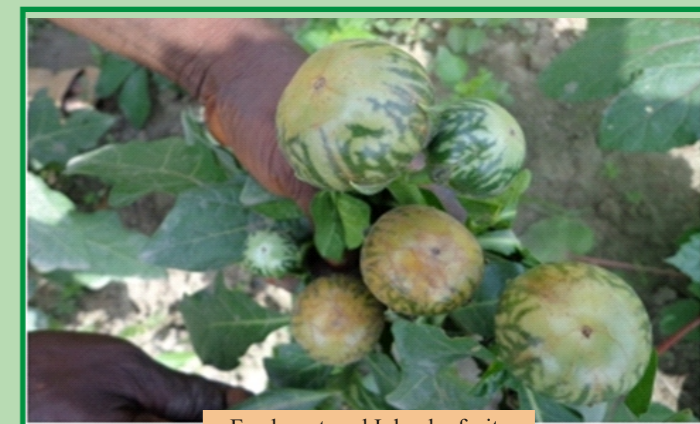
On their own, farmers at Oyo State sites (Akanran) have now embraced fertigation to boost vegetable production. They dissolve fertilizer in water and use the solution to irrigate the vegetable farm. Project 106511 is to probe this approach further and determine optimum water : fertilizer ratio based on soil testing.



Akanran UIVs farmers dissolving Urea fertiliser in water

SEED DORMANCY BROKEN IN "IGBAGBA"

Farmers in SW Nigeria don't usually cultivate Igbagba (*Solanum macrocarpon* L.) because the dry seeds germinate in 21-30 days after planting. During the 21-30 days, other vegetables would have been planted and harvested. Our team experimented with how to reduce the days to germination. We discovered that soaking the dry seeds in water at ~40 °C for 12 hours followed by rinsing in water thrice resulted in melting out of a dry gum-like material, suspected to be suberin which seals up the seeds and prevents the germination of the seeds. Our results showed that the processed seeds germinate at 7 days after planting. Farmers have embraced this research result.



Fresh matured Igbagba fruits