

Flagship Product 1: Enhanced capacity for more efficient and effective yam breeding programs.

Human capacity for yam breeding in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and IITA strengthened.

- A capacity building training program was organised by the project for CNRA in both Abidjan and Bouake on 11th – 16th October 2021.
- The training was organized to update their knowledge in field trial management as well as phenotypic and molecular data analysis.
- It was attended by a total 9 staff consisting of scientists, research technicians and PhD students and was facilitated by IITA.
- “R” packages were used to demonstrate the analysis of molecular data.
- Discussion was held on how to improve data capturing and field data management (trial establishment, barcode, data storage).



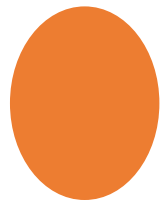
- Another capacity building program was also organised to update the staff in genetic selection and prediction.
- The virtual training which was organised at IITA Ibadan on 7-11 June 2021 and was attended by personnel of the project partners across West-Africa.
- A total of 20 participants attended the training which was facilitated by Dr. Osva Antonio Montesinos López of the University of Mexico and was supported the project team.
- A total of 34 people were also trained across IITA and the partners' institute on the use of SAH for high ratio propagation of yam.
- This is in an effort to meet the seed need for the breeding scheme and breeder seed production for outscaling to seed companies.
- Yam Farmers Association of Osun State, South west Nigeria visited IITA in this reporting period.
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- The representatives of this association were introduced to the yam breeding and seed multiplication schemes of the IITA's Yam Improvement Program.
- Product Advancement and Refinement meeting was held at IITA Ibadan headquarters on the 29th and 30th March 2021.



- Interns and trainees from Nigeria tertiary Institutions were also exposed to yam multiplication.
- This is to encourage students and pupils to pursue a career in Agriculture.
- Students under the Start Them Early Program (STEP) were also on a training visit to the yam multiplication facility.
- Four final year students of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria had a 10-week training on high ratio propagation of yam using SAH.
- Also, in this reporting four staff of the National Horticultural Research Institute in Nigeria were trained on the hands-on high-ratio propagation technique for clonal crops during a 3- day workshop conducted for the staff.
- AfricaYam/RTBfoods Training on Yam Quality Evaluation, 22-26 Nov., Cotonou, Benin.
- Attended by 70 participants.
- Formal training of students attached to the Project also continued during the year.
- As at the reporting period, a total of five PhD and two MSc students were on the project and are being supported.



Infrastructure and equipment for breeding programs in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and IITA upgraded.

- Infrastructure upgrade for the national programs continued during the reporting year to optimize their processes and enhance their performances.
- CRI built temporary yam barns at Atebubu and Kintampo to aid storage of harvested yams.
- UAC renovated some yam barns and screen houses at Dassa and Massi.
- They also received a powerful tablet (CP3 V2) from IITA.
- Other programs also bought several small equipment for use in their breeding activities.
- The project completed the installation of SAH infrastructure in all the national programs.
- This is for the production of quality planting materials for breeding trials.



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- New SAH facilities at IITA Abuja and Ibadan were also completed and made functional during the reporting year.
 - The construction of the yam multiplication facility in Ibadan with a capacity to generate 1.2 million seedlings per annum was completed in November 2021.
 - Under the YCoP, a webinar titled “Molecular breeding tools: Contribution and prospect in yam breeding in West Africa” was presented on 30th September 2021.
 - The main highlights of the presentation include Diversity management, Development of markers for quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA), Trait association analysis and Marker validation.
 - It was attended by a total of 49 online participants.

