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**#52**

# Transforming Africa's Agriculture through Enhancing Commercialization of Agricultural Research Products

The case of Youth Enabler Compact

By : *TAAT Capacity Development and Technology Outreach and Youth Enabler Compact*



FARA  
**Dissemination**  
Notes

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### **Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)**

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## **About FARA**

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is the apex continental organisation responsible for coordinating and advocating for agricultural research-for-development. (AR4D). It serves as the entry point for agricultural research initiatives designed to have a continental reach or a sub-continental reach spanning more than one sub-region.

FARA serves as the technical arm of the African Union Commission (AUC) on matters concerning agricultural science, technology and innovation. FARA has provided a continental forum for stakeholders in AR4D to shape the vision and agenda for the sub-sector and to mobilise themselves to respond to key continent-wide development frameworks, notably the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

FARA's vision is to "Reduced poverty in Africa as a result of sustainable broad-based agricultural growth and improved livelihoods, particularly of smallholder and pastoral enterprises" its mission is the "Creation of broad-based improvements in agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets by strengthening the capacity for agricultural innovation at the continental-level"; its Value Proposition is the "Strengthening Africa's capacity for innovation and transformation by visioning its strategic direction, integrating its capacities for change and creating an enabling policy environment for implementation". FARA's strategic direction is derived from and aligned to the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A), which is in turn designed to support the realization of the CAADP vision.

## **Disclaimer**

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# Background

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) organized a technical webinar on October 28, 2020 as part of the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Program of the Feed Africa initiative funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

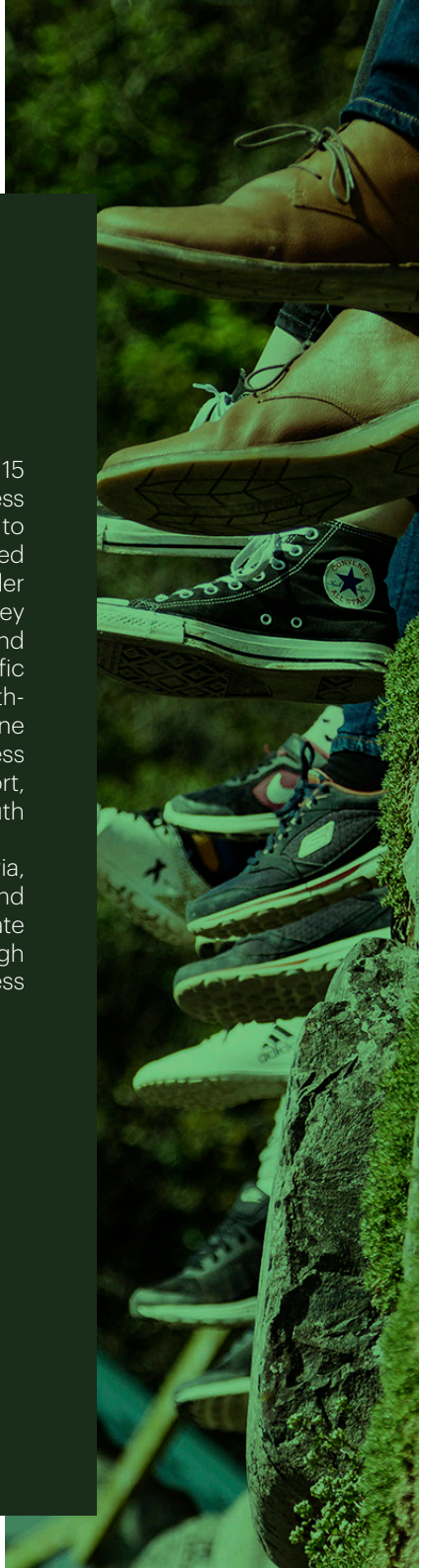
FARA is leading the enabler compact for Capacity Development and Technology Outreach (CDTO) complementing the commodity compacts, and the Youth enabler compact led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) by acting as a process facilitator in the delivery of the proven technologies at scale.

FARA has so far done so through training of trainers (TOT) for Innovation Platforms (IPs) facilitators to help establish Innovation Platform (IP) as the main model for implementing TAAT. In addition, the CDTO Enabler Compact is supporting the compacts to develop modular outreach materials for scaling of technologies within these local innovation platforms. Instruments have also been developed to assist the IPs identify their capacity development needs.

## Overview of the youth enabler compact – **ENABLE TAAT**

The Youth enabler compact is one of the 15 compacts which connects youth to the process of agricultural transformation necessary to secure economic prosperity through youth-led agribusinesses. The purpose of the youth enabler compact is to assist in the promotion of TAAT's key agricultural technologies, operate technology and innovation centres for young people on specific commodity value chains, and to stimulate youth-led agribusiness start-up in support of TAAT's nine priority commodity chain. It expands agribusiness opportunities, provide agribusiness support, improve human nutrition and advance youth empowerment mechanism.

The project operates in 7 African countries (Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, DR Congo, Zambia, and Benin) and reached over 74,657 youths to create 670 jobs. It creates enabling environment through advocacy and develop a system of agribusiness support and mentorship.



# Business Opportunities Identified in the Youth Enabler Compact

The Youth Enabler Compact links the ambition and enthusiasm of youth to the planned modernization of several strategic commodity value chains in a way that leads to new agribusinesses and greater employment opportunities. The project links the youths and works with other TAAT partners like aquaculture compact on genetically improved farmed tilapia, small livestock

compact on poultry feed formulation with high quality cassava peels and brooder unit technology and cassava compact on six steps to cassava weed control and mobile cassava processing plant technology. These partners provided access to training, and dissemination of the technologies to youth.



*Figure: Training sessions on pond construction and good agricultural practices on Rice seed production for youth*

## Agribusiness Enterprises established by the youth

**Below are some of the success stories of the youth trained by ENABLE-TAAT in collaboration with commodity compacts.**

### Frotchery Farms Ltd

Three young vibrant and passionate beneficiaries of ENABLE-TAAT produce and add values to catfish and tilapia fish. They were trained under the ENABLE-TAAT project in partnership with the aquaculture compact using technologies promoted by the compact production of high quality and hygienic fish products at affordable prices. Recently, Frotchery farms Ltd secured a certification

from Nigeria's food regulatory agency- National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) for its products, this has given them opportunities to penetrate more market and edge over competitors. Frotchery farms has created jobs for seven (7) youth (3 full time staff and 4 part-time staff).

## F-Step Ltd

Seun Ogidan, the CEO of F-Step Ltd trained under ENABLE-TAAT established 30 hectares of cassava for stem multiplication and root production and 10ha of maize in Osun State. In April 2019, the Nigerian Agricultural Seed Council certified her company for seeds (cassava stems) distributions to farmers in Nigeria. Nigeria. F-Step has employed 5 full time staff.



*L-R the frotchery farms team and a branded pack of Frotchery smoked fish*



*Seun Ogidan on her cassava field*



## Agribusiness Park approach and initiative

Agribusiness Park Approach is one of the business approaches used by the compact to create a sort of 'soft-take' stage for the businesses. The trained youths are organized into 4-5 persons per cluster, given a common resource or facility to work and establish their

businesses. The compact also provides initial operational fund support which is ploughed back after each cycle and strengthens input and market linkage. The project provides technical back-stopping to each cluster and likewise the clusters also serve as mentors to new trainees.

## Case studies of the agribusiness parks initiative beneficiaries

a) Destiny Gladys Chiaga who graduated from Makerere Business School, started an agribusiness with 2 of her colleagues after graduation because they were unable to secure white collar jobs. The team through the ENABLE-TAAT program ventured into production of Pro vitamin A maize in Uganda. Before ENABLE -TAAT intervention, the business operated at a subsistence level which was poorly managed. However, after adopting pro vitamin A, the business took a positive turn and has gotten certification for vitamin A maize seed multiplication, with an increase in revenue generation from 500,000 to 3,000,000 Ugandan shilling per season. The company is visioning and aspiring to engage in processing pro vitamin A maize into flour.



b) Edmond Ng'walago, is a first class graduate of Logistics and Transport Management, and the owner of Ng'walago invention livestock processing company in Tanzania. He was trained on livestock production but Edmond went a step further by experimenting the production of a bio-pesticides from rabbit urine which have proven to control Fall Army Worm and also process rabbit skin into leather. He employed 6 full time and 10 daily rated staff and the company increased monthly revenue from 5,000,000 to 7,500,000 Tanzania Shilling. The company has a vision to include digitalization in some of his operations. He recently installed bio-pesticide dispensing machines in rural communities for easy access to farmers.

*Figure: Rice and wheat cultivation through shallow tube wells technology*



### **Contact address:**

If you are interested to more know more about the IITA Youth Enabler Compact, please contact the following institutions and people:

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If you want to learn more about the Youth in Agribusiness program please visit the following sites: <https://www.iita.org/>

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