

In pursuance of the IFAD mandate to train 1000 youths in both Nigeria and the Republic of Benin within 3 years, ABUAD, IITA, and AfricaRice, in its first year of Project (2019) 298 youths were trained in Nigeria while 53 youths were trained in Republic of Benin, making total youths trained in 2019 to be 351 with 38.2% female and 61.8% male. All the trained youths 2019 received agribusiness certificates. The youths acquired the necessary technical skills on improved methods, techniques, learning, and practical experiences with current climatic requirement and technical needs on agricultural practices, which include fish ponds preparation, nursery bed establishment, seed preparation, classification of seeds, transplanting of seeds, and seedlings, water, and feed nutrient management.



Group photo of Trainees in Nigeria on arrival for the training.

behavior for youths to take agribusiness as a source of livelihood.

Furthermore, the training was conducted on how physical handling can have a drastic effect on the postharvest quality and shelf life of harvested food crops and fish products. Quality control practices also cut across the entire agriculture value chain. The training further shed light on acceptable standard practices for quality control and postharvest handling, by ensuring an acceptable level of food quality and safety, and adequate protection for consumers. Further training was given on how quality control can be achieved by implementing and monitoring quality assurance measures along the entire crop value chain.



Trainees from Nigeria showcasing their certificate on completion of the training.

The trained youths built the technical competence along the IITA, AfricaRice, and ABUAD selected value chain and focused on good agronomic practices carried out from field selection to storage of harvested crop commodities. Trained youths were also taught to produce planting materials (tubers, grains, fruits, vegetative and non-vegetative) for food consumption. The training therefore played an important role by building technical competence and change in



Group photo of trainees in Republic of Benin on completion of the training.