

In pursuance of the IFAD mandate to train 1000 youths in both Nigeria and Republic of Benin in 3 years with ABUAD, IITA, and AfricaRice mandated commodities. The second year of the project was faced with COVID-19 pandemic which made the project team come up with a strategy that conformed with training during pandemic and still achieved the objectives of the project.

In executing year 2 trainings, the project team came up with online training platform which made it possible for many youths to register and participate in the online training whereby all the participants had access to all the training modules and materials i.e. power point presentations, video presentation and the training manuals. At the end of the training, an examination was conducted to ascertain that trainees really understood the training and those with best performances during the online examinations were selected and invited for hands on practical training at respective training locations.



Group photo of ABUAD trainees showing their certificates in Nigeria after receiving the training

training. The small business management training was part of the entrepreneurial skills training facilitated. The trained youths acquired skills in operation, business management and technical skills to develop commercial products. Additional skills acquired by the trained youths include, transferable skills - business and entrepreneurship skills (market research and analysis, preparation of business plans and apprenticeship), financial literacy and capability (money management, cost and revenue projections, financial management, and basic accounting) and bank literacy (use of financial services), employability and “soft” skills - job search and networking, communication, customer relations and leadership, and life skills - cognitive skills for analysis and use of information, personal skills for managing oneself, and inter-personal skills for communicating and interacting effectively with others.



Group photo of IITA trainees showing their certificates in Republic Benin after training the training

Table 1. Total number of youths attended physical hand-on training in 2020.

Project Partner	Country		Total
	Nigeria	Benin Republic	
ABUAD	115	185	300
IITA	62	61	123
AfricaRice	70	52	122
Total			545

A total of Five hundred and fifty-five (545) youths attended practical training at their respective training centers (ABUAD, IITA and AfricaRice) and all the trained youths went through small business management



Group photo of AfricaRice trainees showing their certificate in Republic Benin after receiving the training