



The project progress review workshop held at IITA, Ibadan between 18-20 December 2019.

The Project Manager (PM) welcomed all partners and stakeholders to the workshop. He thanked them for the success of the project in the first year which was due to the commitment of all who were present.

Dr. Nwilene gave the welcome address and specifically welcomed Dr. Marcel, the representative of the University of Calavi, Republic of Benin. Dr. Nwilene stated that the essence of the meeting was to plan for 2020 by improving on the experiences of 2019. He cited examples of changes that have become necessary in the course of executing the 2019 project such as training participants from the Republic of Benin in their country instead of transporting them to Nigeria for training. He said he found YEASA to be unique as it is the first time youths would be tested based on the knowledge they acquired during training. He advised participants at the workshop to be open to one another, and learn from one another so that more progress could be made in 2020.

## 2019 Activities by Components

The Project Manager gave the general overview of project activities in 2019. He started by displaying the attendance and distribution of participants (across partner organizations), Workplan and Implementation Planning Meeting (FWIPM) that held between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019, and summarized the outcome of the FWIPM. The outcomes of the FWIPM assisted in staging a very good inception workshop and very good project execution in 2019. It was during the FWIPM for instance that the decision to move starter packs from the third year to the first-year was taken, and approved by IFAD. He said the main focus now is to agree on timely reporting so that funds for the second year could be assessed. He further stated that the review and planning meeting would enable us to plan for 2020 and improve on the performance of 2019.

## Project Activity in IITA, 2019

During her presentation, Miss Yemi, the Project Coordinator in IITA gave a brief outline of project activities in IITA in 2019. She reported on training components in IITA. She informed the meeting that their manuals were upgraded and that consultants were recruited for training on life skills. She stated that training on ICT was included in all the modules and that all trainees were placed in appropriate skill acquisition centers for industrial attachment. She added that in 2019, 48 trainees were trained in Nigeria while 9 trainees were trained in Benin Republic. She added that youths were trained in production, value addition, life skills, personal interaction and negotiation in the marketplace, selling as well as business administration.

## Project Activity in ABUAD, 2019

For ABUAD, the PM informed the gathering that there was a preponderance (about 70%) of applications for fishery (both production and value addition), which made ABUAD train applicants on fishery in both first and second batches while training on all ABUAD mandate modules was conducted in the third batch. He said a total of eight manuals (fishery, moringa, mango, and equipment fabrication) were produced in English and French for each mandate crop. The PM further stated that training on ICT was also included in all the manuals. He said technical partners from the Benin Republic were employed in translating the manuals from English to French as it would be more accurate than using language software. The PM further stated that each manual encompasses training in both fish production and fish value addition so that youths can benefit from both, and fall back on the information contained in the manual should they need to later in life as their finances improve, thereby becoming both producers and processors.

## Project Activity in AfricaRice, 2019

Dr. Nwilene said AfricaRice had a target of 60 trainees for 2019 but eventually trained a total of 62 (43 in Nigeria and 19 in Rep. of Benin). He said they were trained in production, value addition and mechanization, and were also taken through technical and entrepreneurial training. He said, most of the youths were interested in rice seed production, value addition, and then mechanization respectively. He said they were trained on 14 value-added products and were able to produce a thresher within 2 weeks. The youths were encouraged to stay together after the training and were advised to venture into the fabrication of other equipment. He further stated that the youths were trained on both upland and lowland rice production while 25 kg of both upland and lowland varieties were given as part of the starter packs for the youths.



Cross session of participants at the workshop