



The project progress review workshop held at IITA, Ibadan between 20-23 December 2020

The three-year project which targets 1000 unemployed youths (650 from Nigeria and 350 from Benin Republic) will complete activities for 2020 by end of December 2020. Consequently, the last project activity for 2020 is the Project Review and Workplan Workshop which is meant to carryout a review of progress of 2020 project activities and also plan for activities in 2021. During the workshop more emphasis would be to maintain the overall goal of the project which is improving the livelihoods of rural youths living on agriculture and agriculture-based enterprises while the project objective is to train youths for enhanced technical, business/entrepreneurial skills for increased incomes and creation of employment opportunities, both in Nigeria and Benin Republic.

2020 Progress Review and 2021 Workplan Workshop Key Objectives

1. Review of project activities conducted, and results obtained in 2020 against the action plan
2. Complete a draft of 2020 Project Annual and Technical Report, and Financial Report
3. Finalize 2021 work plan and implementation arrangement
4. Agree on coordinated work plan for all components and activities for year 2021
5. Operations budgets and procurement plans for 2021
6. Agree on timely 2021 mid-term Progress and Technical Report, and Financial and Audit Reports
7. Agree on timely progress report on Midterm knowledge management achievements

IITA Project Activities in 2020

Yemi Adunoye, the Project Coordinator in IITA gave a brief outline of project activities by IITA in 2020. 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 youths were trained in production, value addition, life skills, personal interaction and negotiation in the marketplace, selling as well as business administration.

ABUAD Project Activities in 2020

Prof Amos Onasanya, the Project Manager reported that about 85% of applications in ABUAD were for fisheries (both production and value addition), which made ABUAD trained more youths on fishery. Other ABUAD mandate modules were conducted in the fourth batch of the training. He said manuals were produced in both English and French for fishery, moringa, mango, and equipment fabrication, thereby making it a total of eight manuals produced for the training in Nigeria and Republic of Benin. 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, thereby becoming both producers and processors.

AfricaRice Project Activities in 2020

Dr. Nwile Francis gave general overview of AfricaRice activities in 2020 and stated that AfricaRice trained 69 youths in Nigeria and 52 youths in Republic of Benin, making a total of 121 trained youths in 2020. He said they were trained in rice seed production and value addition and youths were also taken through technical and entrepreneurial training. He added that trained youths showed keen interest in both rice seed (upland and lowland) production and value addition. The youths were encouraged to stay together after the training and were advised to synergize for optimum profit in their respective business enterprises.

He explained further that the end of training evaluation questionnaire showed that the training had created great impact in the lives of the trained youths in both Nigeria and Republic of Benin thereby making them potential future collaborators and leaders.



Cross session of participants at the workshop