



## Project News (August-September 2013)

Dear Supporters and Partners of Springboard,

After the last News Update sent to you in July, we are very excited to share with you some significant progress made in the last 3 months at Springboard.

### Participants complete Stages 1&2 of Springboard Curriculum



After 4 months in the training, Springboard participants completed the 1<sup>st</sup> Stage (Business Idea Development and Farm Adventure) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage (I am the Change/Community Development) of the training in September. At the end of Stage 1, participants presented their business plans to a group of audience and panel. Questions and answers session followed after their presentations. Also, at the end of Stage 2, participants carried out community development activities on climate change and security challenge in the community. A workshop was organized by the participants to sensitize secondary school students about these subjects and were also enlightened on their roles in creating eco friendly environments.

### Participants start Apprenticeship

The third Stage of the Springboard curriculum is a 2 month apprenticeship where the participants will receive hands-on skills on their chosen businesses. It was a great challenge for some of the participants to get host organizations. During the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October, some of the participants were so happy to begin their apprenticeship. Others will commence theirs

as soon as we are able to get organizations ready to partner with us to raise community entrepreneurs. Participants will therefore complete their apprenticeships in November and graduate from the training by first week in December 2013 to launch their businesses.

### Another dream come true: Springboard begins production of Plantain chips



Adding value to produce from the Springboard farm, creating jobs, and enhancing the health of the people through production of organic farm produce are some of the goals of Springboard. In 2011 when we started growing plantain on the Springboard farms, then The Youth Farm, we desired to go beyond just selling plantain; we dreamed that one day, we would start producing plantain chips. In doing so, we would generate much more income and create new jobs. Today, this dream is becoming a reality! On Sunday 6 October, Springboard plantain chips, named IPEKERE (meaning tasty organic plantain chips) was produced and now available in shops around the community. Though started in small capacity and with manual production, the potential for this product is huge, the market is large and it is capable of creating several new jobs. Springboard team is so happy to have made this dream a reality! Also, we have successfully registered a business name (Springboard Harvest Ventures) to produce and market the product.





## Andras Nevai visits Springboard



We were happy to receive Andras Nevai visiting us from Hungary in September. During his 2 weeks stay with us, he facilitated at several workshops and visited Springboard farms. These workshops are: Starting a small business, Know Thyself, Pendulum Dowsing, and Dream Conference. From these workshops, Springboard was able to raise some money. Moreso, Andras spent some time with Springboard participants enlightening them more on business development skills.



## GlobalGiving Fundraising

In September, Springboard participated in an online fundraising at GlobalGiving and we were blessed enough to raise \$1,450. Many thanks to all our GlobalGiving donors especially Lynne Murguia (USA) who was highly instrumental to our participation and also made a major donation.

## Application for 2014 Springboard Training

In December, application for the 2014 Springboard Entrepreneurship course starting in March 2014 will be out. Few months after we started this year's training, many people started coming to ask us when the next batch of students will be taken. For next year, we plan to train participants who are only interested in starting farm business. With this, all our trainings will be on the farm and so presently we are reviewing our curriculum.



Dear Supporters and Partners,

On behalf of the Oak Batch participants, staff and volunteers of Springboard, we want to say thank you for your support and partnership. Our much appreciation goes to BWB Foundation, Switzerland for its support.

With much gratefulness from Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria

Afere Alaba Lawrence and Springboard team

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*Springboard...the Promise of a New Nigeria through Organic Farming & Entrepreneurship*

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