



## PROJECT NEWS (JANUARY 2014)

### Dear Supporter and Partners of Springboard,

I am pleased to bring to you, the first Springboard news update for the year 2014. We started the year with BIG dreams and goals. I am happy to inform you that we are on the move towards actualising them. We are UPWARD and ONWARD towards creating a new Nigeria through organic farming and personal enterprise

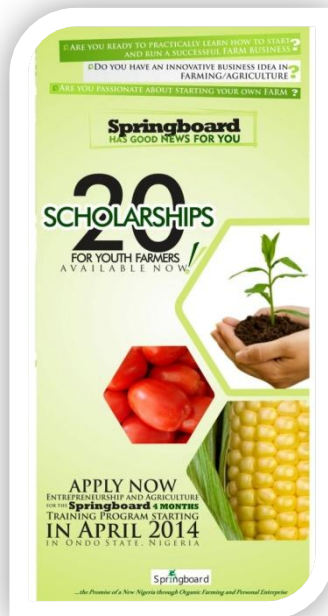
### Springboard Graduates Start their Small Businesses

After graduating from the 6 months training in December 2013, our participants received micro credit from Springboard in January 2014 and some of them have already registered and commenced their business activities.



We were able to visit some of them last month. Visits to participants' businesses will continue throughout the year. We shall do a video documentary, which you will be able to watch on YouTube, on our participants' businesses in May 2014 when Tomasz Kozakiewicz, founder of Kanthari+ ([www.kanthariplus.org](http://www.kanthariplus.org)) visits Springboard from Poland.

## 2014 Springboard Training



Registration for the 2014 Springboard training has commenced. Training fliers have been printed and distributed in different locations in Akure, the project location. The 4-months training will start in April and will majorly focus on Organic Farming/Agriculture. It will take place on the Springboard Farms with some visits to other farms within and outside Akure, project location. 20 unemployed youth who have interest in starting farm businesses will be selected to participate in the training. They will be equipped with various farming skills and at the end of the training Springboard will provide them with farmlands and materials to start their own farms. Also, Springboard will help to create market for their farm produce. In 2014, Springboard plans to start the 'Youth Farmers Association'. The 2014 Springboard participants will form the pioneer members of the association.

## Ondo West Local Government partners with Springboard to establish a Bamboo Village in the community



The Ondo West Local Government has partnered with Springboard to establish a Bamboo Village (the type I saw in India last year and I proposed it to the local government) where some youth will work to make bamboo products such as Chairs, bed, pen, tooth pick, phone case etc. The first part of the agreement is for Springboard to take 5 youth from the Local Government to Uravu Indigenous Science and Technology Study Centre, India to learn Bamboo craftsmanship ([www.uravu.net](http://www.uravu.net)). The training starts on Wednesday 12 February, 2014 and it will last for 5 weeks. I will be travelling with the trainees to India. All expenses

covered by the Local Government. The second phase of the agreement/project is to establish the Bamboo Village within the Local Government Area with common facilities for the trainees to start making bamboo products once they return home after the training. Springboard will serve as a major consultant to the Centre. The Plan of the Local Government plan is to use the Bamboo Village to generate a number of jobs and create huge wealth within the Local Government Area. Springboard is happy to help them realize this noble goal!!

### **Springboard Plantain Chips (branded as IPEKERE) has a new Packaging**

We began this year's chips production at the building donated to us in December 2013. Also, we found a new way to package the chips to appeal to the customers. The market feedback we receive daily about our chips encourages us and helps us plan ahead. We hope that someday, when you visit our project you will be able to taste these highly nutritious plantain chips produced by Springboarders!



Dear Supporters and Partners,

As you can read, this year started well and we are right on a good path towards helping unemployed young people in low-income communities to become self employed. All of this would not have been possible without your support! On behalf of the Springboard team, I want to say thank you very much for your continuous support. Please note, in the coming weeks, I will regularly send you pictures of our Bamboo and Fiber processing training happening in India.

**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 & Personal Enterprise*

[www.springboardnig.com](http://www.springboardnig.com) [www.springboardng.webs.com](http://www.springboardng.webs.com) - [springboardoffice@gmail.com](mailto:springboardoffice@gmail.com)

Phone: - **+2348067551755**