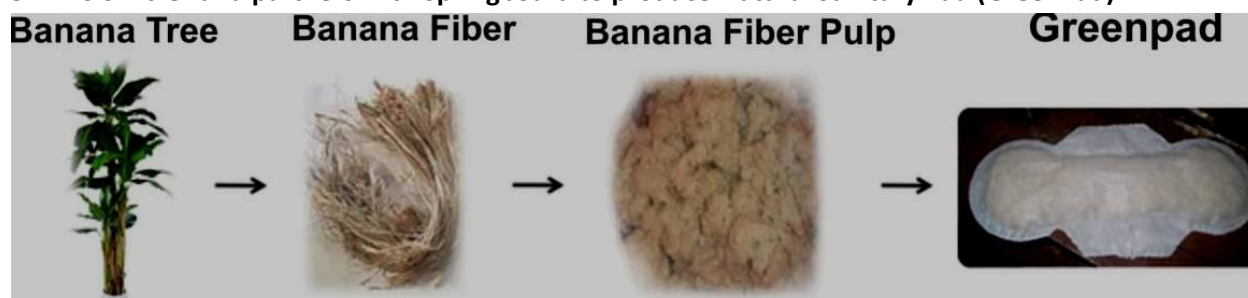




## Mid-Year Newsletter-2016

The first six months of 2016 are over and therefore it is time for the mid-year newsletter. Pls find below the highlights and some updates on the Springboard projects.

### **CEWAS Switzerland partners with Springboard to produce Natural Sanitary Pad (GreenPad)**



*Production process for Springboard's Greenpads*

Over 30 million rural women in Nigeria need affordable sanitary pad! Buying a pack of pads at about \$2 in rural communities is seriously unaffordable for these poor women and farmers' children. These people live on less than a \$ a day! Menstruation is a taboo in rural Nigeria! Women, especially young girls feel ashamed when they menstruate! This causes rural girls to miss more than 50 days of school every year and most of them eventually drop out of school. It is so sad that a natural thing as Menstruation would cause our girls to drop out of school and deprive them of a bright future! There is good news! CEWAS Switzerland has pledged a donation of \$5,000 to Springboard towards production of the 1<sup>st</sup> Natural and affordable Sanitary Pad (made from banana/plantain stem) in Nigeria. Before the end of 2016, we will launch this product in 5 rural communities in Nigeria using the Self-Help-Group Production Model and Door-to-Door Distribution Model (by making use of rural women entrepreneurs) thus creating rural jobs. If you are interested in knowing more about this project, pls email us at [springboardoffice@gmail.com](mailto:springboardoffice@gmail.com) so we can send you detailed information.

### **More communities call for the Springboard Goat Bank project!**

We have just concluded construction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Springboard Goat Bank in Akure. This new goat bank can conveniently house about 500 goats and over 1000 to graze. And it is constructed with over 30% Bamboo (also full bamboo fencing!)

The idea of the project is to give communities, especially Springboard farmers and students, the opportunity to make money raising goats in the Natural way – just the way God planned! Goats are received from owners and raised in the bank. The plantain peels from the Springboard chips factory, the corn, healthy leaves and vegetables from the Springboard farms and other remnant (but healthy) food from the host community is used to feed the goats.

The project (Springboard) takes the first kid when the goat gives birth. And subsequent kids belong to the owner. The owner can come to the bank to withdraw his/her goat for sale any time. Springboard can also buy these goats! We will soon begin a goat Slaughterhouse where consumers who love Healthy goat meat can buy from. Also, the Springboard Asun and Goatmeat Pepper Soup Specials will soon be launched in Akure.



### **Over 100 jobs created in Half year**

Late 2015, we recruited 100 participants. 50 participants received training in organic farming and started their farms. The other 50 participants received training in Community Enterprises and were given micro credit to start their businesses. Some of the enterprises created are: Community crèche, Primary school, Local Rice Packaging, Liquid Soap production, Palm Oil Production, Hair Making, Goat Rearing and chicken rearing, Honey production, etc. In December 2016, we shall do a special Newsletter chronicling some Springboard Community Entrepreneurs and their enterprises. Please see below some pictures of these projects.

### **US Embassy Lagos Visits Springboard**



The Head of the Public Affairs Department of the US Embassy Lagos, Nigeria, Dehab Ghebreab and her team visited Springboard on Monday 18 January, 2016. The team from the US Embassy had some time to address our farmers and community entrepreneurs and also to tour our office and Plantain chips factory.

## 2016 Planting Season began with joy and Climate Change challenge



As the rains began to shower this year, our farmers were joyous and began to get their hands dirty in the soil. Our farmers have planted over 20,000 seeds of corn, 5000 suckers of plantain, 300 suckers of pineapple, with tomatoes and pepper. And harvest of the corn has already begun. But there is another side to this news!

***Climate Change is real here!!*** To our surprise, and this is happening to our farmers for the first time, more than 50% of the corn grown by our farmers were infested by pest we have never seen before. Also, rain pattern has changed drastically. Usually in Nigeria, it begins to rain in March and breaks in August. Unfortunately, this year, the rains have been inconsistent. Farmers all over the country are worried about the impact of climate change. Springboard has commenced training farmers on how to adapt and mitigate climate change. Also, we have started communicating with our partners to support our farmers to irrigate their farms.

### Mitsubishi Fund for Europe and Africa, UK visits Springboard

In April, we were honored to receive our major partner, Mitsubishi Fund for Europe and Africa. During their visit, Emily Minton and San Koichiro Senju (from Mitsubishi) spent some time visiting our farmers, staff, office, Goat Bank, factory and communities. The entire team of Springboard was excited to receive them.



### **Network of Organic Agriculture Nigeria Partners with Springboard**

To boost organic food production in Nigeria, the Network of Organic Agriculture Nigeria has partnered with Springboard. The partnership includes providing more training for farmers, boosting organic food market and helping inorganic farmers to switch into organic farming practices. Please read more about this organization here <https://noanigeria.net/>

### **A new product: Springboard Shredded Plantain Chips**

We are happy to inform you that we have added a new product to our plantain chips enterprise. The Springboard Shredded Plantain chips, very crispy and easy to chew, is produced to meet a new market demand.



### **We now have a full-time Book keeper!**

We are happy to introduce our full time book keeper to you. Bukola Ogunbanwo Studied Agricultural Economics and Farm Management at Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta Ogun State. She worked with Skye Bank Plc during her NYSC, as a Credit Risk Management Intern. After completing NYSC, joined BAMACS Associates and worked with them for a year as a Trainee consultant. Bukola decided to advance in her career by joining Diamond Bank plc, as a teller service representative for a year and half. And this year, she joined Springboard as a Book Keeping officer.

### **Springboard Founder named as one of the 20 young social changemakers in Nigeria**

To celebrate the work he is doing in organic food production, rural and youth development, Lawrence Afere, Founder/CEO of Springboard was named as one of the best 20 Young Social Entrepreneurs in Nigeria by Union Bank and LEAP Africa. You can please read more details here:

<https://www.bellanaija.com/2016/04/meet-these-young-change-makers-all-you-need-to-know-about-the-leap-africa-20152016-sipa-fellows/>

### **Training and Speaking Engagement:**

- Lawrence will be attending the CEWAS startup programme in Switzerland in August 2016. During the training, he will receive help with the startup model for the Springboard Natural Sanitary Pad.
- Lawrence will attend the Blacksmith and Liberty Entrepreneurship Camp in Lithuania in July 2016. At this camp, Lawrence will have the opportunity to pitch Springboard to organizers, investors and participants.
- Springboard, (in partnership with Heart Space Manor/Cultural Center and Gallery) will be speaking at over 5 workshops in Budapest in July/August 2016 and also create new market for the Springboard Plantain chips.

**Some pictures from participants' enterprises**



**Tomato Nursery**



**Goat Rearing**



**Local Rice Packaging**



**Community School for farmers' children**



**Tomato & pepper farm**



**Liquid soap making**

*In December 2016, we shall do a special Newsletter chronicling some Springboard Community Entrepreneurs and their enterprises.*

---

Dear Supporters and Friends, all of us at Springboard wish to say thank you for your ongoing support.

With very best regards,  
the entire Springboard team

---

[www.facebook.com/springboardnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/springboardnetwork) - [www.springboardnig.com](http://www.springboardnig.com)

