

Springboard



Quarterly Newsletter 1- 2017

**We are a community
of organic farmers and
rural entrepreneurs!**



1. ORGANIC FARM TRAINING/START-UP

In January 2017, we welcomed 50 new Young Farmers who are currently receiving training on organic farming and entrepreneurship . After they graduate from the training, they will set up Neighborhood Organic Farms (NOF) in Akure city. The idea of the NOF is to make organic farm closer to consumers in Akure City.

More Jobs!
More Safe Food!!



Student Farmers learning how to use basic Weeding tool



Student Farmers using the low cost irrigation pump on their demonstration farm.



**No more waiting
for Rain!**



Student farmers learning how to nurse and transplant Cocoa seedlings at the Springboard Seed Centre.

2. SEED CENTRE



In January/February 2017, we established a centre where our beneficiaries can nurse some seeds for sale. Our Students Farmers and Women Cooperatives have nursed seedlings in Cocoa, Dwarf Pawpaw, Mango, Cashew, Oranges, Coconut and Vegetables. It is already planting season and buyers have started patronizing the Seed Centre.



Student Farmers/Cooperative Women working at the Seed Centre

3. RURAL WOMEN ENTERPRISE COOPERATIVES

Empowering rural women enhances rural development and reduces poverty and rural-urban drift of youth. Springboard has 16 Women Cooperatives in 10 communities. During the 1st quarter of 2017, we recruited additional 50 women who are currently receiving training in small business. After the training, Springboard will support them to set up business cooperatives.



Lawrence addressing rural coop set up by Springboard at Temidire Village

We set up a Cassava Processing factory for the Coop at Igushi Community



Inspecting the Garri produced by Coops members at the Cassava processing unit



Meeting with our Coop at Imafon community

4. SPRINGBOARD PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITY TO ESTABLISH A SCHOOL

Springboard partnered with Ago Panu community, Akure, to establish a Nursery and Pry School for Farmers' children. The school was opened in January 2017 with 40 pupils.



Newly completed school building and pupils in pix above

5. SPRINGBOARD STARTS COCOA FARMING

We have nursed over 10,000 seedlings of cocoa to be planted at the Springboard farm in June 2017. Every year, we will keep planting additional 10,000 seedlings. After 4 years, we will begin to sell cocoa beans. Of course, we also have a goal to begin production of chocolate in future!



Cocoa Nursery @ Springboard Seed Centre

6. SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

On March 15 and 16, Lawrence Afere, Founder, spoke at the staff/Management meetings of the Mitsubishi Funds for Europe and Africa, (London office) a major partner of Springboard. The presentation was about the present and future work of Springboard.



7. MORE PROJECT PICTURES





Front view of the Springboard Seed Centre
Where student farmers and women
cooperatives nurse seedlings for sale.

Farmers nursing seedlings @ the Seed Centre



Two Polish filmmakers were on our farm to record
a short video on Springboard





A beneficiary of our Rural Women Cooperative program

Dear Partners and Supporters,
Springboard would not be possible without your partnership and Support. On behalf of our beneficiaries – the youth, women and communities – I say THANK YOU for your continuous support.

Best,

Lawrence Afere.

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Ondo State, Nigeria.

REQUEST: Springboard is in need of a farm tractor with its implements. Kindly contact us if you know anyone that might be interested in donating one/supporting us. THANKS!

