

# Springboard



Quarterly Newsletter 3 - 2017



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





## U.S EMBASSY COURTESY VISIT

On September 12, we received a courtesy visit from the U.S. Embassy, Lagos, Nigeria led by Darcy Zotter, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Consulate, Lagos. According to Darcy, *“Springboard is playing a major role in rural, youth and food transformation in Nigeria”*



# FARM TO SCHOOL AFRICA PROJECT TAKES OFF!

What would happen if every child in Africa had access to a school farm in which they could grow, harvest and enjoy healthy vegetables & fruits from the source? Develop personal connection to the natural world around them? Have opportunity to contribute to healthy food production in their community? How would these experiences, if woven into the fabric of childhood, impact how young people relate to school and learning, to healthy food, and to their community? A School Farm can serve as an incredible classroom and an outstanding teacher for a child. In a school farm we are able to cultivate children's love of learning, their appreciation of healthy food, and their connection to nature and community. This is why Springboard has established the Farm to School Africa project - working with schools and educators to set up school farms where students learn how to grow produce and eat healthy food, nurture plants and contribute to healthy food production in their communities. The pilot phase of the project, sponsored by **The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa**, will benefit 5 Schools and over 2000 children. for more details about this project, please check [www.farmentoschoolafrica.org](http://www.farmentoschoolafrica.org).

## SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN AGRIC ESSAY CONTEST

In August, in order to prepare the minds of children for the Farm To School Africa project, we initiated an essay competition titled ***“Show Nigeria why farming is Important: The role I am determined to play.”*** Over 5000 children are participating in the essay contest. Winners will be announced and awarded at the Farm to School sensitization conference in November 2017.



# FARM TO SCHOOL AMBASSADORS

## Secondary School Agriculture Essay Contest

**Show Nigeria why farming is Important: “  
The role I am determined to play”**

... FOR ALL STUDENTS AGED 11-16 BASED IN ONDO STATE

Farm To School Africa is conceived to intervene in Africa's food crisis by creating in young Africans, profound interest in sustainable farming and encouraging them to be part of the solution to the challenge of food security presently being experienced in the continent.

We earnestly believe that the future of Nigeria is determined by farming. Do you believe with us? If yes, then you have a chance to prove it and also become our FARM TO SCHOOL Ambassador. Also, you will win a prize by showing Nigeria why farming is important and the role you will play.

### Prizes

1ST Laptop 2ND Mini Laptop 3RD Android Tablet

\*There will be special prizes for Schools where winners emerge

**ENTRIES SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY:**

- Full Name, Age, Class, Name of School
- 1000 to 2500 words typed
- A signed letter from School Principal/Proprietor allowing participation
- Contact details of contestant including School Address

**FOR ENQUIRIES**

Jemimah on 0810 863 7508, 08056078725  
Lawrence: 08067551755

### ARE YOU READY?

WRITE A 1,000 TO 2,500 WORD ESSAY ON THE TOPIC:  
**Farming is important in Nigeria:  
The role I am determined to play in developing it**

**3 WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED**  
AND THEY WILL RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES AT THE FARM TO SCHOOL AFRICA SENSITIZATION CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 2017.

**Essays should be submitted to:**

✉ farm2schoolafrica@gmail.com

🏠 Or physical address (Each school can collate students' essays and submit)  
@ Springboard Building, KM 6 Imafon, After Imafon Royal Hotel,  
Igbatoro Road, Akure Ondo State.

🕒 **Submission Deadline:**  
October 23rd, 2017



# FARM TO SCHOOL SENSITIZATION CONFERENCE

We will officially launch the Farm To School Africa on November 17, 2017 with a sensitization conference with the theme: **BRINGING FARMING BACK TO SCHOOL**. Our Guests of Honour includes the Commissioner for Education, Ondo State, Commissioner for Agriculture, Ondo State and the Africa Director of Ashoka.



PRESENTS

## A SENSITIZATION CONFERENCE Of FARM TO SCHOOL AFRICA

FOR STUDENTS | SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS | AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE TEACHERS

**THEME:** *Bringing*  
**Farming**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL**

**SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR**  
HON. GBOYEGA ADEFARATI  
*Commissioner for Agriculture, Akure*  
HONORABLE FEMI AGAGU  
*Commissioner for Education, Ondo state*

**SPEAKERS**  
JOSEPHINE NZEREM  
*Director, Ashoka Africa*  
DR. SAMSON ODEDINA  
*The Provost, Federal College of Agriculture, Akure*  
MR. BABASOLA ADENIYAN  
*Manager, ADP, Akure*

**FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2017**  
**TIME: 10 AM**  
NIGERIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ADJACENT SHOPRITE,  
IGBATORO ROAD, ALAGBAKA, AKURE, ONDO STATE

**FOR ENQUIRIES:**  
JEMIMAH :0810 863 7508, 08056078725  
LAWRENCE: 08067551755  
EMAIL: farm2schoolafrica@gmail.com

AN INITIATIVE OF

Springboard

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER



SPONSOR

The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa

Above is a sample copy of the flyers  
distributed for sensitization conference

# RURAL WOMEN ENTERPRISE AND COOPERATIVE TRAINING

With support from the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa, we are expanding on our rural women Cooperative Program. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, another batch of 100 rural women were selected from 10 communities and currently undergoing training in Village Enterprise start up and will receive micro credit to start their small businesses at the end of the training.



*Trainees at Onipanu village*



*Participants from Imafon village receiving their training at the Springboard building.*



# ORIENTATION FOR YOUTH FARMERS TRAINING

A new batch of 50 Youth Farmers will start their training in January 2018. Over 500 applications have been received and orientation & selection is currently taking place. The training, which will start in January 2018, will last for 5 months. Participants will learn farming, business, leadership and computer skills. They will also be supported to start their farm enterprises.







In July 2017, 3 farmers' children attending the Springboard Nursery & Primary school received the Andras Nevai Scholarship to cover their school fees for an academic Session. These students took first positions in their classes during the 3<sup>rd</sup> term examination.



# FARM UPDATES

We planted over 3000 cocoa seedlings on the Springboard Demo Farm during the Planting season. We also sold over 10,000 cocoa seedlings to our farmers. These Seedlings are sprouting beautifully!!!



*Springboard staff posing with a cocoa tree on the Springboard Demo farm*





Freshly harvested bunches of plantain supplied by Springboard farmers making their way to the Springboard plantain chips factory!



### **Springboard Staff of the Quarter**

Ayo Ogunleye, a very passionate farmer, keeps everyone happy at Springboard! Ayo, popularly referred to as 'Uncle' will always say to everyone *"I was born on the farm!"* Uncle coordinates Springboard farm activities and enjoys driving our guests on a motor bike to Springboard farms.




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

Best,  
Lawrence Afere and the entire Springboard staff.

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## OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS

 The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa

Louis Dreyfus Foundation

Nevai Family Foundation

Kanthari, India

US Embassy, Lagos

Ashoka Global

Delasalle Nigeria

International Institute for Global Leadership

Ondo State Government

Accent

CEWAS

Lynne Murguia

Andras Nevai

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

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Ondo State, Nigeria.