

# Springboard



*Students of the Farm to School program at Springtide College, Onipanu*

## Quarterly Newsletter 3 - 2018

Starting with the name “The Youth Farm Project” in 2008, Springboard has trained over 3000 farmers and over 500 rural women entrepreneurs resulting in the establishment of over 2000 farms and over 500 village enterprises in more than 20 communities in Nigeria. And our Farm to School Africa program currently benefits over 4000 students in several High schools in Nigeria. You can please read more about our work:

[www.springboardnig.com](http://www.springboardnig.com)

[www.farmentoschoolafrica.org](http://www.farmentoschoolafrica.org)





## Contributing to Rice Revolution in Nigeria

Our rice farmers in Ekiti State, Nigeria are happy with the yield from their rice farm. Of course, they are happier with the sales of their produce. We linked them with the appropriate market and Springboard also off-took some tonnes of the rice for packaging.

*“This is the best planting season of my life. Springboard trained us on how to plant rice, gave us inputs and also facilitated market for our produce. Next year, with the income I made from this year’s season, I will double my yield in the next planting season” - Ojo Juliet, Springboard’s Rice farmer*



*Our rice farmers weighing their paddy rice as they sell to an off-taker*

## Bountiful Beans Harvest

Our beans farmers continued the harvest of their beans in the third quarter. There is joy when farmers harvest their farm produce after patiently tending their farms. In January 2018, we trained 50 farmers in Ondo State on Beans Farming and we supported them with seeds and inputs to own their beans farm. Some of these farmers have started harvesting their beans. We also partnered with an off-taker who is buying the entire produce. We are solving several problems through the Beans cluster farming. Our farmers and their families are able to have access to protein-rich food, more income to cater for the family and contributing to food security of the country.



*"I never knew I could grow beans on my farm. We usually buy beans from Mali and Niger Republic. Growing beans here on my farm is a revolution for me. I am very happy. I am happy to produce nutritious chemical-free beans for Nigerians"*  
- Ogbona, one of the Springboard beans farmers.





*Students and Farm Instructors of the Farm to School program at Imafon College.*

## Farm to School goes to more Schools in Nigeria with extended support from The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund

The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa renewed their support for the Farm to School Africa program. The mission of the program is to raise a new generation of African farmers by working with secondary schools to engage the students on the 'Story of Our Food' and build school farms where students learn how to grow produce and eat healthy food, nurture plants and contribute to healthy local food production in their communities. Currently, the program benefits over 4000 students in over 10 Secondary schools in Nigeria.

*"I used to think farming was meant for poor people and would never consider taking it as a career. Thanks to the Farm to School Africa, I now consider taking Agriculture as a career" – Temitope. O; student of Farm to School @ Springtide College*



## Ashoka team applauds Farm to School Program

In October 2018, Ashoka team from France, Burkina-Faso, Senegal and Nigeria visited Springboard. The team also visited some of the schools of the Farm to School program. The team considers the program to be remarkable and a game-changer in the field of food and nutrition.

According to Nicolas Metro, Ashoka fellow and Advisor from France, *"I see Farm to School program as a great initiative that helps to get the next generation involved in the food security of the country and continent."*



Ashoka Team with the Farm to School Students and Farm Instructors @ Becky-Parker College

In August 2018, we recruited and trained some Youth Corps members from the National Service Corps who would serve as Farm and Class Instructors of the Farm to School program. After the training, we deployed them to our partner schools where they are also provided free accommodation for their stay within the school premises.



*Some Class and Farm instructors of Farm to School Program*

*"I wish Farm to School Program was initiated in Nigeria decades ago. Today, we would have a country with passionate farmers who help to secure the Food security of Nigeria. Farm to School is helping to raise a new generation of African farmers. I am always happy with the time I spend farming with the students of the program"* – Funke Iyanda, Farm to School Instructor





*Ongoing construction of the springboard dormitory*

## Springboard's trainings go residential from January 2019

We receive a lot of applications from across Nigeria and Africa to participate in our training programs. We could only take people who live close to our project location at the Springboard headquarters. The story is changing now. We will now be able to accommodate participants from across Nigeria and of course Africa during our trainings. Thanks to local donors, we began the construction of our dormitory (will conveniently accommodate about 50 participants) in the last quarter. The construction of the building has already reached over 50% completion with completion time by end of November.



## Our new products

Local Rice: Grown by Springboard farmers and packaged by Springboard.



Plantain Chips in 150G Package: Our plantain is grown by the Springboard farmers and processed by Springboard.



In September, We began to store organic corn seeds for 2019 planting season.





During the 2018 planting season, we sold over 15000 Cocoa and over 1000 oil palm seedlings. We plan to achieve more in 2019. In September, we started preparing a bigger Nursery for this purpose.



# Other News

- In August 2018, Lawrence Afere was invited to speak at the Global Forum for Landscapes in Nairobi Kenya. Please watch his presentation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrZ2rmlhv0Y>
- Registration is ongoing for our next Youth in Agric-business training starting in January 2019. And this will be the first residential training of Springboard. Please see details here: <https://youtu.be/1DzZ9SRWXkk>

## watch out

- I am a Farmer: A picture book of the students of the Farm to School program to be launched at the Farm to School summit in June 2019

## Springboard in the media

- March 7, 2018: <http://www.businessdayonline.com/springboard-targets-commercial-agric-cluster-farming/>
- 5th March 2018: <http://sunnewsonline.com/farm-to-school-africa-trains-1800-students-in-agriculture/>
- April 4, 2018: <http://www.businessdayonline.com/nigeria-must-address-seed-problem-poor-mechanisation-realise-potential/>
- <https://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/why-this-nigerian-chose-rural-farming-over-a-suit-and-tie/>



Dear Partners and Supporters,  
Springboard would not be possible without your partnership and support. On behalf of our beneficiaries – the youth, farmers, women and communities – I say THANK YOU for your continuous support. Here is a list of our partners and donors: <https://springboardnig.com/partners/> . To support our work, kindly write us at [office@springboardnig.com](mailto:office@springboardnig.com) Thank you for your support!  
Best,  
Lawrence Afere.

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Students and Instructors of the Farm to School Program @ Becky-Parker College