

Springboard



WELCOME TO SPRINGBOARD

First Half of the Year Newsletter - 2021

We are happy to share some news about the happenings at Springboard in the last 6 months. We hope your heart will be uplifted with the updates from the fields all the way from Springboard Nigeria.

As you read these words, a youth in rural Nigeria is successfully running her Agribusiness (a Tree Nursery that sells seedlings to hundreds of farmers in her community). She is one of the roughly 1 million young people who graduate from High School each year but are not able to neither get a job nor proceed to college. Unlike many of her peers who migrate to cities in search of daily labour jobs, she stayed back in the community after attending Springboard's training, starts an agribusiness and succeeds in her community. She's become a role model to several youth in her community.

Also, Springboard's plantain and cocoa farmers are preparing for the main 2021 harvest season. They are excited because they expect to have bountiful harvest which

they will sell at premium prices to the Springboard's Cooperative. They will be able to pay for school fees, housing, medicine and food.

The entire Springboard People appreciate you for your support in empowering rural people and communities in Nigeria.

Thank you!

New Farmers join Springboard

Late 2020, we registered 500 new farmers into the Springboard's Farmers Cooperative. During the first half of the year 2021, we trained them in sustainable agricultural practices, agroecology farming and cooperative management techniques.



On boarding and training of new Springboard farmers

Also, we supported them with inputs and new crops (corn, rice, plantain) to diversify their farms. Our Field officers are on the ground monitoring these farmers as they put into practice these new skills on their farms.

Supporting Rural People with Food during Covid-19



Distribution of food items to some of our farmers

The impact of COVID on farmers and rural communities has been really devastating. In the last 1 year, incomes of farmers have reduced because farmers have produced less. Some of our farmers were desperately in need of food. A few of our farmers who had food in their store were kind enough to share with others. Also, we were supported by one of our partners to provide food aid (Rice, Beans, Bread, and Garri) to over 500 Springboard's farmers reaching over 2000 family members of these farmers.

Update on Springboard's Plantain chips



Springboard Plantain Chips

The Springboard's plantain chips unit keeps making progress. We are also innovating new products - Plantain chips with Chocolate chips. Yummy!!! We bet you will love to have a bag of our Plantain chips with Chocolate chips! We will keep you updated. During the half year, we have produced and sold over 20,000 units of the nutritious Springboard's plantain chips. We will produce far more in the 2nd half of the year because that is the main harvest season for plantain.

Cocoa Trading

During the first half of the year, which is majorly lean cocoa season, we have aggregated around 10MT of cocoa from the Springboard's cocoa farmers.



Weighing of Cocoa



Loading into Truck to the exporter

The 2021 main cocoa season will commence in October. During this season, we project to aggregate over 200MT of quality cocoa beans from our cocoa farmers.

US Embassy's visit

On the 15th of April, 2021, a team from the US Embassy Nigeria led by the US Consular General Claire Pierangelo visited us at the Springboard's office and did a familiarization tour round our office, factory, demo farms and premises.



US Consular General Claire Pierangelo with Some of Springboard Farmers & Family

Update on Springboard's Fermentation and Mats



Fermentation Box and Mat Installation Overview

In the first half of the year 2021, we sold close to 1,000 cocoa fermentation boxes to OLAM Cocoa and the distribution of these boxes was outsourced to Springboard. Also in the same period, we installed about 500 cocoa drying Raised Platforms to OLAM Cocoa. These activities have generated some revenue that helps support our overheads at Springboard.

Rural Enterprise program



Rural Women Training

Rural Women receiving grants

Late 2020, 200 rural youth and women were recruited to participate in the Springboard's Rural Enterprise program. In the first half of 2021, they learnt new

skills that facilitated employment in Agribusiness and small businesses. Each of the trainees was supported with grant to start their agribusiness and village enterprise. Some businesses set up are: Tree Nursery, Corn Farm, Plantain Farm, Food Catering etc. For example, over 70,000 tree nurseries (cocoa, pawpaw, coconut, citrus) were raised by the beneficiaries and sold to farmers in their respective communities.

USAID COVID 19 FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGE

Springboard participated in the USAID COVID 19 Food Security Challenge. The Challenge anticipates making \$1.75 million available for 10-15 awards of \$75,000 to \$150,000 in funding and technical assistance for mid-stage enterprises (with an existing customer base of more than 1,000 people) that can rapidly expand their activities to improve food production and/or food security in Nigeria. Springboard was shortlisted as one of the finalist and we are currently placed as an 'Apparent Awardee'. After the necessary due diligence with the grant requirements is finalized in September 2021, winners will be announced. We can't wait to share the final good news with you. Fingers crossed! For more details please see the link attached:

<https://www.usaid.gov/innovation/nigeriacovid19>

ASHOKA GREEN AWARD

Springboard participated in the Ashoka Green Skills Innovation Challenge. This global innovation competition was open to social entrepreneurs in selected markets with ventures that equip individuals and communities with the skills needed to thrive in the transition to a green economy. Springboard has been shortlisted as one of the semi-finalists. Winners (will receive between \$15,000 to \$20,000) will be announced in September 2021. We will keep you informed. For more details, please read the attached link:

<https://www.ashoka.org/en/green-skills-innovation-challenge>

INTERN

Lowie Bremmers (from the 'has University, Netherlands') will join Springboard as an intern in September 2021. He will work with us for 5 months. During his time here, he will help develop a business plan for the proposed Springboard's chocolate project and the organizational steps to be taken to execute the plan.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE SINCE INCEPTION



3,408 farmers trained so far, **905** registered members of the Springboard Farmers' cooperative benefiting over 20,000 family members in total.



Farmers' main crops: Plantain and cocoa; **Farmers diversification crops:** Rice, Beans, corn and vegetables.



We are currently in more than 30 communities in Nigeria.



27 Full- and Part-time staff (almost 50% women)

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.

Best regards,

Lawrence Afere.

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Beneficiaries of our Rural Women Enterprise program in their Tree Nursery