

Springboard

First Half of the Year Newsletter - 2023



As we step into the second half of the year, it's time to pause and celebrate our journey of achievements! From empowering farmers to creating jobs, ensuring food security, transforming rural communities & women, combating climate change, empowering our staff, driving rural education and aiming for bigger dreams, we have so much to be delighted about.

Together, we are truly transforming lives and shaping the future of agriculture in rural Nigeria.

We are happy to share some news about the happenings at Springboard in the last 6 months - January to June 2023. We hope your heart will be uplifted with the updates from the fields all the way from Springboard Nigeria.

Made in Nigeria Chocolates! Chocolates with a BIG Difference!

Our factory is ready! In May 2023, we did our Bean to Bar training with an award-winning chocolate maker from Belgium, Mario Vandeneede, right here in our new chocolate factory at Springboard. We are now equipped with the skills to make world class chocolates that will serve the chocolate lovers, not just in Nigeria but the entire Africa.



We hope to begin commercial production in August once our license is ready from the food agency (NAFDAC) and the bean to bar equipment are here.

Springboard Chocolates is the first chocolate product to be produced by the cocoa farmers themselves in Nigeria. This is a gamechanger for cocoa farmers and their communities - better income for the farmers and jobs for rural people.



Our Rural Women cooperative farmers raise over 400,000 tree seedlings

With support from the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa to recruit and train new farmers to join the Springboard cocoa farmers' cooperative, we are also supporting rural women (as part of our rural village enterprise program) to raise different kinds of tree seedlings that will be sold to farmers during the 2023 planting season. These tree seedlings include: cocoa, kola nut, Terminalia Superba/Ivorensis (shade tree), Pawpaw, Cashew

and coconut. Over 400,000 tree seedlings are currently being raised. They will be planted to restore several hundreds of hectares of land and they will also help alleviate

hunger and poverty while fighting climate change across over 50 Springboard communities.

Transforming Lives with A Loaf of Cricket Bread



With a Loaf of Springboard Bread (Fortified with Protein from Edible Cricket) we are transforming the lives of rural and urban people in Nigeria. With support from the USIAD in 2022 we built this factory and commenced commercial production of protein bread. In the last 6 months, we have produced around 300,000 loaves of bread serving over 1000 consumers daily.

2022 Cocoa Season



The 2022 cocoa season came to a wrap up in March 2023. We were able to aggregate over 200 Metric Tonnes (that is over 20,000kilos) of traceable cocoa beans from our farmers. They were sold to Barry Callebaut (under the Cocoa Horizon Sustainability Program) and OLAM Cocoa. Our farmers received fair prices for their produce. In August 2023, our farmers will receive their premium thus increasing their income level. The 2023 main Cocoa season will start in October 2023. We anticipate to aggregate around 500 metric tonnes of traceable cocoa beans during the 2023 main cocoa season. This is due to the recruitment of new cocoa farmers into the Co-operative.

Scaling the Bread Bakery – Bigger Production capacity.



The demand for the Springboard cricket bread has increased in the last 6 months. Our existing factory is not big enough to meet the current demand. Hence, we are building a new factory where we can produce 5,000 loaves per day. Also, we will have double shift staff in this new factory. This means we are creating more jobs for the rural communities and many more consumers will have an opportunity to eat our nutritious bread. This new factory will reach 100% completion in August. Are you wondering what we would do with the old bakery? We will be introducing and producing Springboard Chocolate Biscuits/cookies! We will convert the cocoa powder we generate from our Chocolate Factory into yummy, nutritious Chocolate Cookies. More jobs for rural people, nutritious healthy snacks for Nigerians.

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 25,000 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.

Job creation and resource management is in our DNA



During the first half of the year, we employed 11 new staff that joined our various departments - Cocoa Cooperative, Bread Unit, Plantain Chips Unit and Accounts Department. At Springboard, creating meaningful & responsible jobs is in our DNA

Lend-A-Hand India Partners with Springboard to Empower Rural Youth in Nigeria



In order to reduce rural-urban migration and ensure rural children (especially in the farming communities in Nigeria) develop skills that guarantee self-employment and success in their communities, Lend-A-Hand India has partnered with Springboard to introduce the model for Multi Skill Foundation course in Nigerian secondary schools. The Foundational course exposure is provided in over 20 different skills ranging from food processing, health care, electrical wiring, gardening, landscaping, welding, and carpentry. The project will be piloted in 9 Schools in Ondo State, Nigeria; in partnership with and approval from the Ondo State Government.

As part of Lend A Hand India's contribution to the pilot initiative, they will be providing technical and financial support to launch the program covering 500 students.

During their visit to Springboard in May 2023, we met with the Education Commissioner of Ondo State to ensure Government's support of the project.

To know more about the Lend A Hand India, please see [here](#)

OUR DREAM For the Protein Bread: 35 Bakeries, 1050 jobs, 17,500 farmers, scaling the edible cricket insect project

We are dreaming BIG in respect to our Protein Bread. The demand for the bread is high and we want to scale production. Once we scale production across Nigeria, children and adults across Nigeria will have access to healthy nutritious bread fortified with protein from edible cricket insects, we can create over 1000 jobs in rural communities (staff working in the bakeries), empower around 17,500 small scale farmers (mostly women) that will rear the edible cricket insects. In doing this, we plan to build 35 Bakeries, one in each State in Nigeria. We are developing a business plan that we can share with our partners. Please let us know if you will like us to partner with you. Thank you!



Early in the year, Lawrence was interviewed by AfriconEU in a vidcast series about the role of cooperative in empowering smallholder farmers in Africa. Please watch the vidcast [here](#)

Dear Partners and Supporters,

Springboard would not be possible without your partnership and support.

On behalf of our beneficiaries - the youth, farmers, women, communities and staff - we say THANK YOU for your continuous support.

Best regards,

Helen Lawrence-Afere.

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