

Springboard

First Quarter Newsletter, 2024



New Year! Same Vision!

It's already the end of the first quarter of the year –What an amazing first three months here at Springboard. To all of our partners, sponsors, and customers – We hope you have started the new year well. With your support, Springboard has been able to impact positively many lives both in rural (rural farmers, women and youth) and urban areas through the creation of meaningful and responsible jobs in Agribusiness for rural people, food security, and climate change mitigation. And of course, we intend to do more with you.

We find a great meaning in the words of Joel A. Barker: “*Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world*”. Our vision

remains to see a nation where small-scale farmers and rural youth and women are prosperous and can make a sustainable and comfortable living.



The first Quarter of the Year 2024 at Springboard has been extremely busy and action-packed and we got off to a good start this year. We are excited to update you on the most recent achievements. Please enjoy reading this Newsletter!

Improving Staff standard of living

A popular proverb states, "*Charity begins at home.*" We believe that positively influencing the lives of our employees directly affects the productivity of the company. Also, Creativity is fueled by a positive mindset. In light of the nation's economic hardships and high cost of living, Springboard decided it was appropriate to provide its employees a considerable pay rise across board so they could better support their families. Springboard values employee well-being and offers bonuses to high-achieving employees as a token of gratitude for their dedication to the organization's vision and goals.



New Partnerships in the 1st Quarter 2024



We are excited and grateful to share the great news of our new partnership with the Livelihood Impact Fund. For the next three years, LIF will provide funds to support Springboard in the areas of scaling our farmers' recruitment, training & support program and our overall strategic work. In addition to the funding, Livelihood Impact Fund would also provide us with 200-250 hours of consulting support over the course of their funding relationship. With the support from LIF and other partners, we will recruit, train and support around 4500 small-scale farmers per year, support them to improve & grow their farms, increase their profits and create meaningful jobs. We will also scale our commodity aggregation and food production initiatives thus improving our revenue and boosting our farmers' livelihoods.

2023/2024 Cocoa Season: Springboard farmers earn 4x more!



Cocoa prices are at their highest in 45 years!

In just one year, Cocoa prices have risen over 150%. As we prepared this Newsletter (March 28th), cocoa price just hit \$10000 per ton in [Nigeria](#).

A kilo of cocoa now sells for around \$10 at farmgate price in Nigeria! This time March 2022, a kilo was sold for around \$1.

Thanks to the Springboard's co-op model, our

farmers are definitely seeing better times and are benefiting from these price increases.

When we asked some of our farmers what they would do with their improved incomes, most of them were quick to say *'we will improve our families' wellbeing'*.



Theory of change: Mind shaping and sharpening with Livelihood Impact Fund

In February, we had a two-day workshop on Theory of Change facilitated by the staff of our new supporter, the Livelihood Impact Fund. The objective of the workshop was to reflect on the Springboard's Theory of Change and how to grow our vision and impact.



In attendance were Springboard's Heads of Departments. The workshop provided a space to reexamine our program's model and also a space for team building between Springboard's leadership, programs and administrative team members.

Updates on Springboard's Value-Added Products

- **Protein Bread:** We have now moved to our new Bakery with new equipment. We have seen a spike in customer order rates for our Protein Bread. We are happy to share that we have also introduced into new bakery product to the market – Chocolate Doughnut bread. Also, to ensure constant power supply, we have installed solar panels and inverter in the bakery.
- **Nutritious Plantain Chips:** Our Plantain Chips production unit is growing and we are currently testing new products that will provide Nigerians with healthy snacking, boost the incomes of our farmers and create new jobs for rural youth and women.
- **TIWA Chocolates:** Springboard's chocolates are finally here and have hit the shelves in some part of Nigeria! Our chocolate trainer, Mario Vandeneede, award winning Belgian chocolate maker, was here in March for the last round of training for our employees. We are most proud of this achievement and the positive impact it would have on our farmers and their communities. Springboard is making chocolates with a Big Difference! Because we Grow our Cocoa beans ourselves, we make real chocolates! Every chocolate lover deserves to get real chocolate, and our cocoa farmers get good price for their hard-earned crop. That is our goal with TIWA Chocolates.
- **Impact:** Apart from the significant impact our value-added programs have in the lives of our farmers – increased income & improved livelihoods and production of nutritious, healthy food for Nigerians and Africans, we are also creating job opportunities for the rural youth and women who work in our Food production units. In the last quarter, we have employed additional 13 full-time staff and 25 part-time staff working across our departments.

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 – we say THANK YOU for your continuous support.

Wishing you a wonderful Quarter 2 2024.

Best regards,

Helen Lawrence-Afere.

www.springboardnig.com office@springboardnig.com

www.facebook.com/springboardnetwork



Photo: Springboard's staff with 2 representatives from the Livelihood Impact Fund during their visit to Springboard in February.