

Springboard



Quarterly Newsletter 1 - 2018

Starting with the name “The Youth Farm Project” in 2008, Springboard has trained over 2000 farmers and over 500 rural women entrepreneurs resulting in the establishment of over 1500 farms and over 300 village enterprises in more than 20 communities in Nigeria. You can please read more about our work at

www.springboardnig.com



Springboard expands its work to new communities across Nigeria

During the 1st Quarter, we took our work to new communities across six States in Nigeria. In total, we recruited and trained 300 rural women and farmers on organic farming and agribusiness skills. We supported beneficiaries with seeds, market linkages and other farm inputs to start their farmers. Some crops planted are beans, rice, vitamin A cassava , maize and tomatoes.





Our farmers at Lanlete, Ibadan learning how to use irrigate their farms using a low cost irrigation tool



Springboard farmers learning how to use a mini tractor to prepare their farmland.

We are supporting local beans production

The beans (Red and White beans) we eat in Nigeria are produced in Niger, Mali and some States in Northern Nigeria. The soil in the South West Nigeria is very suitable for beans but the farmers have not really thought of growing their own beans because of the influx from the aforementioned countries. Springboard wants to change this story. In the 1st quarter, we trained 50 farmers in the South West to grow beans. After the training, we provided farmland, seeds and other inputs. The farmers are happy with this new opportunity that is anticipated to boost their livelihood and nutrition.



Some of our farmers working on their beans farm



New farmers planting beans

We are feeding Nigerians one community at a time

We have empowered and supported more farmers to grow Organic Red Beans (Honey beans) and local Rice (popularly called ofada rice). We will off-take from them after harvest and distribute through different channels. We have just finished constructing a BIGGER warehouse to keep and preserve farm produce bought back from the Springboard farmers.



Springboard Food produce Warehouse



Our farmers showcasing their ATM cards

Springboard launches Agent Banking platform in farming communities to provide banking and financial services to farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Now, our farmers and rural entrepreneurs do not need to keep their Money under their pillows and they can save for the future. Our farmers are beginning to take farming as a cool business!



Bank account registration of Springboard farmers and rural entrepreneurs at Imafon Village

Springboard's Farm To School Project trains over 1800 students in Agriculture

In line with Springboard's effort to make agriculture attractive to young Nigerians and provide healthy nutritious food for Nigerians One Community at a time, Springboard established the Farm To School project. The project works with schools and educators to build 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 project has trained over 1800 students and supported to own farms in groups and also generate income.



Students of the Farm To School project at their poultry farm



Some students of the Farm To School project



Students of the Farm To School project preparing their farmland for beans and maize

U.S Ambassador visits Springboard

In November 2017, the Ambassador of the United States to Nigeria, His Excellency, W. Stuart Symington, visited us at Springboard. After his visit, he sent us an email to appreciate our work. In his words, "It was terrific to see your work and the faces of those whose lives you have changed! Congratulations."



Polish Author writes about Springboard

For 2 weeks in February, Edyta Stepczak, author from Poland, was with us at Springboard researching our work and activities. Together with Springboard, Edyta wrote a picture story book to inspire children (Ages 7-11) all over the world to make a difference in their communities. The title of the book is “Matt in Africa: The Story of a young dreamer, who wants to make a change”. The book, which will be available in different languages, will be published on Amazon.



CTA partners with Ashoka, Springboard and others to establish a Nutrition Cooperative in Africa. The Coop will help to promote and exchange local nutritious food across the continent to boost nutrition of Africans, livelihood of producers and economic growth. In March, the Coop was legally launched in Burkina Faso. Lawrence Afere, Springboard founder, was also elected as part of the Supervisory Committee of the Coop.



Founding members and Board Members of the Coop. Lawrence Afere, Springboard's founder sits next to the Lady.

U.S Embassy, Nigeria in collaboration with Springboard celebrated the Martin Luther King Day 2018 in Nigeria. The event, which was hosted at the Global Leadership Hall, Springboard building, Akure, was marked to inspire Nigerians to make a difference where ever they are and contribute to a new Nigeria.



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/>

Request for your support to build hostel accommodation for Springboard participants

Every year, we receive training applications from countless young Nigerians living in different locations in the country who will like to participate in our training and start their own farms or small off farm business. Because our trainings are not residential, many of these applicants are denied the opportunity to participate. In this spirit, it is very important, if we will step up our game on job creation and food production in the country, to build a Hostel accommodation and run a residential training program. If this happens, unemployed young Nigerians living in any part of the country can travel to Akure (where Springboard is located) to attend our trainings and go back home after the training to start their own farms and also replicate Springboard in their communities.

We are fund-raising \$45,000 to construct an hostel accommodating 100 participants twice a year reaching 200 participants yearly coming from different parts of Nigeria. We have already secured a land for this purpose. We will be happy to receive your support for this purpose. Kindly share with others who will be interested in supporting us.

For your contribution, kindly see Springboard bank details below. Thank you!

Name of organization: Springboard

Entrepreneurship Development Initiative

Account number: 0079619504

Name of bank: Diamond Bank

Branch: Akure, Ondo State

Country: Nigeria

Swift code: DBLNNGLA

Sort code: 063180462

Headquarters Address: Diamond Bank plc, plot 730 Adeola Hopewell Street, Lagos, Nigeria

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/>
Best,
Lawrence Afere.

www.springboardnig.com office@springboardnig.com

www.facebook.com/springboardnetwork

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