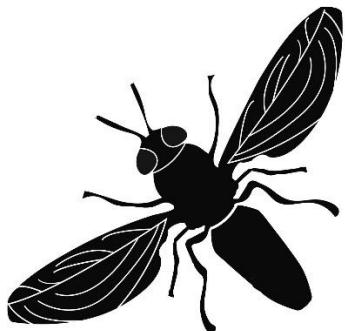


IITA BBEST DIGEST

Vol 1 January 2023



IITA
BBEST
BSF FOR BIO CIRCULAR ECONOMY
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



In the issue

- **Message from the project coordinator**
- **Sod cutting**
- **Farmers' day in Ghana**
- **Peasant week in Niger**
- **Visit of the management of USAID-YALWA to BSF in Niger**
- **IITA BBEST Team in Accra receives the visit of State Secretary of the Ministry of International Development for Norway**
- **Launch of IITA BBEST Project in Ghana**

The IITA BBEST, a NORAD funded initiative, led by IITA Ghana was launched in February 2022 to address the challenge of unsustainable biowaste management and unsustainable supply of animal feed. The project named: Chicken, fish and pig feed and organic fertilizer value chain development using Black Soldier Fly based urban biowaste in DRC, Ghana Mali, and Niger aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder fish chicken pig and vegetable producers and other value chain actors and contribute to improved urban sanitation and climate change mitigation.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT ACTING COORDINATOR

I wish our donor, the partners, our stakeholders, the beneficiaries, and the entire coordination team a joyful and peaceful year, and I look forward for a successful collaboration, greater achievements under the IITA BBEST Project in 2023. As Harfold E. Luccock once said, “No one can whistle a symphony. It needs an entire orchestra to perform it”. I extend my appreciation to our donor, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) who made it possible for us to undertake this project, the partners, (CSIR-IIR), from Ghana, (IER) from Mali (INRAN) from Niger and (WORLDVEG) from Benin for their dedication, our stakeholders the beneficiaries and the project coordination team from IITA Accra office, for the support since the launch of the project.

We started the IITA BBEST Project with these goals; improving urban sanitation and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, and I believe it is our responsibility to work together and achieve them.

Happy and prosperous year 2023

Daniel Dzepe Ph. D

SOD CUTTING TO COMMENCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BBEST PROCESSING FACILITIES AT KOFISAH IN THE NSAWAM ADOAGYIRI MUNICIPALITY.

The IITA BBEST Project acting coordinator together with the members of the project coordination unit from IITA Ghana visited the project construction site at Kofisah, a community in the Nsawam Adoagyiri municipality on Thursday, December 15, 2022, to cut the sod for the construction of the Black Soldier Fly processing units. After an engagement with the community members, the project team, Dr Richard Bayitse, the focal person from CSIR-IIR, Mr. Isaac Buabeng, the Municipal Chief Executive of Nsawam Adoagyiri, the Municipal Coordinating Director Mr. Jerry A. Amoafu, the chief of the community Nana Abeyyei III went to the site to cut the sod. This officially marks the beginning of the IITA BBEST project activities in the community. The ceremony was witnessed by the project's staff, people from the Nsawam Adoagyiri staff from the Municipal Assembly, elders, and members of the Kofisah community.

Dr Daniel Dzepe on behalf of the project management team expressed his appreciation to the chief and the members of the community and sought their support and collaboration during the activities of the project in the community starting from the building of the facilities which constitute an employment opportunity to the youth and women in the community. He also stressed on the benefits of the project to community, and he stated: "Thank you Kofisah, thank you Nsawam.

The MCE, Hon. Isaac K. Buabeng expressed his appreciation to the IITA BBEST Project coordination unit for choosing the Kofisah community to establish the Black Soldier Fly processing unit.

The Chief, on behalf of the community thanked IITA and the Assembly for bringing them such a project and pledged his support to ensure the completion of the facility as well as successful implementation of the project.



Dr Daniel Dzepe, the MCE of Nsawam Adoagyiri municipality with dignitaries of Kofisah at the sod cutting ceremony

IITA BBEST PARTAKES IN THE 38TH EDITION OF NATIONAL FARMERS' DAY CELEBRATION.

The National Farmers' Day celebration has become a tradition in Ghana, and it is an important celebration on the Ghanaian annual calendar. Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and Ministry of Fisheries and aquaculture organizes a weeklong agricultural fair climaxed with the farmers' day in a selected region to celebrate those who feed the Ghanaian nation with their hard work and contribute to the economic development of the country.

The 38th national farmers day celebration and agricultural fair was held at the Golden Jubilee Park, Koforidua in the eastern region under the theme: "*accelerating agricultural development through value addition*" from November 29th to December 2nd, 2022. The celebration brought together stakeholders, farmers, fishers, and value chain actors from various part of the country to showcase their products and to share ideas that can help transform the sector.

The IITA BBEST project was one of the projects showcased by IITA Ghana at the fair. The

project team was part of the team present at the event ground to create awareness on the BSF technology.

The team displayed and



A Member of the BBEST project educating a visitor on the BSF technology

hand out flyer to

visitors to give

them information on the project, in addition to that videos were displayed.

The exhibition stand was visited by about two hundred people from different fields of work. His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo was the special guest of honour at the award ceremony that was held on December 2nd, the climax date of the fair and he noted the impact the global crisis is having on the agriculture sector especially farmers. He said that interventions by the government like the one district one factory 1D1F is helping to promote value addition.

IITA BBEST PARTAKE IN PEASANT WEEK CELEBRATION IN NIGER

The third (3rd) edition of the Farmers' Week was held in Djirataoua in the Maradi region in Niger under the theme "Contribution of producers, organizations and stakeholders in the transformation of the rural world " from November 17 to 19, 2022.

The event brought together producers and processors and value chain actors from all regions of Niger as well as research institutions, national universities, NGOs, and development projects.

Participants presented innovations resulting from research. The IITA BBEST Project implementor INRAN in Niger also presented a Black Soldier Fly mini breeding device and black soldier fly products.

The stand was visited by the various Mayors present at the opening ceremony, entrepreneurs, producers, and students from agricultural institutes.

The Black Soldier fly technology attracted the attention of more than **five hundred** visitors during the 3 days, including the Minister of Livestock who presided over the opening ceremony of the farmers' week.



BBEST Project in Niger participation in 3rd peasant week



Visit of the Minister of Livestock and dignitaries from municipalities at the IITA BBEST exhibition booth during the peasant week.

The BSF stand particularly attracted the attention of the Minister and the authorities accompanying him. He stopped by the exhibition stand and spent time listening to the

presentation on the BSF and its products. Authorities were impressed by the great number of larvae in the basin, their size and black soldier fly products.

STATE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR NORWAY VISITS IITA BBEST PROJECT IN ACCRA.

The State Secretary of the Ministry of International Development for Norway, Bjorg Sandkjaer, paid a working visit to the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) office in Accra, Ghana to engage with the scientists and the team working on the IITA BBEST project. The Black Soldier Fly (BSF) technology is a project sponsored by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and aims at providing proteins for smallholder chicken, fish and pig producers and organic fertilizer for smallholder vegetable farmers using the Black Soldier Fly larvae to process organic biowaste. During the visit, Dr Rousseau Djouaka, the project coordinator, took the State secretary accompanied by the Norwegian Ambassador to Ghana Ingrid Molested, on a tour at the BSF village set up by the project team within the Institute premises to familiarize herself with the project's objectives and activities.

Dr Rousseau Djouaka acknowledged the technical support provided by Professor Michael Abberton, Director of IITA West Africa Hub and Dr Abdoulaye Tahirou, the IITA Sahel Hub Director in making the State Secretary visit possible.

He explained that the project is working towards building three processing facilities in Ghana Mali and Niger to breed and transform Dried BSF larvae into pelleted animal feed. The units will also produce quality organic fertilizer and BSF frass to boost plant production in the three countries.

The units will serve as training centers for the youth who wants to venture into the BSF waste recycling system

he added.



The state Secretary of the Ministry of International Development for Norway and Dr Djouaka, the Coordinator of the BBEST Project at the BSF village established in IITA.

Addressing the project team, the State Secretary expressed her excitement about the project. She said that the projects objectives align with the Norway's commitment to sustainable food production and food security.

LAUNCHING OF IITA BBEST PROJECT IN GHANA

the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ghana launched its BBEST project on February 8, 2022 at Tomreik Hotel in Accra. The project seeks to improve urban sanitation, and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers using the Black Soldier Fly larvae to process the urban biowaste hence the title of the project: "chicken and fish feed and organic fertilizer value chain development using black soldier flies (BSF) based urban biowaste processing in Ghana, Mali, and Niger.

The project's overall objective is to improve the livelihoods of smallholder chicken, fish and vegetable producers and other value chain actors and contribute to improved urban sanitation and mitigate climate change. In addition to that, the project seeks to understand the current and future stream of biowaste to inform the design of a business model for sustainable biowaste management animal feed and organic fertilizer production, it will also establish chicken and fish feed organic fertilizer value chains, optimize the potential of BSF biowaste processing and build capacities of the BSF knowhow of youth agripreneurs and stakeholders. The Research for Development Director, Dr May Gury, Saethre in her address at the launch stated that "Chicken and fish farming are among the most rapidly expanding private sectors in African agriculture and the industry is



Dignitaries of Kofisah the Nsawam Municipality



Dignitaries from the Government, the Norway Embassy in Ghana and IITA



H.E Ingrid Mollestad, Dr Djouaka and Dr Saethre at the Launching of the BBEST Project in Ghana.

currently based on the traditional animal feed sources namely soyabean, wild fish and maize meal”.

She stated that the rapid growth of this private sector also globally demands increased efforts to find out alternative feed sources, competitive in price and quantity without occupying additional agricultural land.

She added that in west Africa, a large amount of biowaste is generated in urban markets particularly in fruit and vegetable markets. By products produced by slaughterhouses are often underutilized and generate additional waste sources. Municipalities governing waste disposal struggle to deal with the urban cities' current waste level in a sustainable way. As a result, biowastes accumulate in open and unregulated sites creating unsanitary environmental conditions that pose public health risk and contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

As a solution to those challenges, the IITA BBEST project will turn vegetables, fruits and slaughterhouse waste into chicken and fish feeds and organic fertilizer using the Black soldier Fly BSF larvae. And this will further generate multiple benefits: economic benefits, clean environment job creation, empowerment of youth and women at many spatial layers: household, urban city, peri urban landscape.