

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **TANZANIA: HOW TO MAKE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE SUSTAINABLE**
- **BANKER-TURNED-POULTRY FARMER IN AGRICULTURE SUSTAINABLE**
- **AgriFocus Business Directory**
- **Polmac srl**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UN Start-Up launch	1
Banker turned poetry farmer	2
Agri Directory	2
Banker turned poetry farmer	3
Green gold avocadoe farming on the rise	4
Tanzania making agri futuristic	5
Advertisers/ Contact Us	6

UN LAUNCHES HUNT FOR START-UPS AND ENTERPRISES CHANGING THE FACE OF FOOD SYSTEMS



A unique global competition will invite small and medium-sized businesses to showcase innovative ways to sustainably deliver good food and livelihoods for all.

Thursday, April 29 NAIROBI – The UN Food Systems Summit has announced a competition to identify the best small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from across the world who are transforming food systems for a better tomorrow.

The Summit has launched a unique contest, named “Best Small Business: Good Food for All”, which will surface and name 50 small and medium-sized businesses worldwide whose work best exemplifies the Summit’s aim of delivering all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing healthy, sustainable food and livelihoods for all.

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“ Click here (<https://bit.ly/2QBkjrN>) to register and to learn more about the High-level Virtual Dialogue on Feeding Africa on 29-30 April 2021.

BANKER-TURNED-POULTRY FARMER BECOMES CHAMPION FOR AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation works to harness high-impact agricultural technologies to boost crop output and create viable opportunities for workers and entrepreneurs

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, April 27, 2021/ — “If we must satisfy Africa’s food security with our growing population, then there must be high commercialization of agriculture. That is modern farming.” – Ayotomiwa Yinka Ogunsua, poultry farmer

When Ayotomiwa Yinka Ogunsua got a job as a loan officer at a microfinance bank in Ibadan, Nigeria, after graduating from university, he thought he’d done well for himself. Then, he spotted an online advertisement for a youth agricultural training program and signed up, owing to his interest in farming as a hobby.

Selected to interview for a place in the poultry rearing course, Ogunsua promptly quit his bank job and, he says, prayed he would get in. “I knew I wanted to follow my passion for agriculture full-time,” the 29-year-old Nigerian said.

Ogunsua did win a place in the course, organized last March by the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (<https://bit.ly/2PrrEK9>) program, or TAAT, a program of the African Development Bank (www.AfDB.org) and partners including the CGIAR, a global research partnership. TAAT works to harness high-impact agricultural technologies to boost crop output and create viable opportunities for workers and entrepreneurs.

Soon after, Ogunsua bought 50 chicks and started a business.

The African Development Bank’s Director for Agriculture and Agro-Industry, Dr. Martin Fregene, said TAAT has the resources, scientific and technological expertise, as well as proven implementation plans to benefit millions of African farmers like Ogunsua.

“As the continent’s leaders gather for the High-level Dialogue on Feeding Africa (<https://bit.ly/2QBkjrN>) at the end of the month, Ogunsua’s experience serves as an inspiration for governments to commit to investing in Africa’s food systems,” Fregene added.

“After the training, I saw agriculture as a proper business, not just a passion,” Ogunsua said via telephone from his farm, as roosters crowed in the background. “I realized this is something I must make income from, as something to pay my bills – something that I can build on as an enterprise,” he added.

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP GROUPE DE LA BANQUE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

“We sold out of birds for Easter,” Ogunsua said, noting that he makes more money from agribusiness than he did working as a loan officer.

As head of Atops Farms, Ogunsua does his part to advocate for Nigeria’s agriculture sector, appearing regularly on radio and television programs, and working to change society’s perception of farming as a pastime.

“Farming, for one, is to make profit. It is also to ensure food security of the land, or the nation – of the continent,” he recently told Inspiration 100.5 FM radio (<https://bit.ly/3gjJFDo>). “If we must satisfy Africa’s food security with our growing population, then there must be high commercialization of agriculture. That is modern farming.”

Currently, he is expecting a shipment of new chicks to restock his coop, and while he waits for his chickens to mature, also rears turkeys, rabbits and goats to generate cash flow and build his agricultural business.

“I am still a small farmer, but by the grace of God I am growing and I will get there,” he said.

Click here (<https://bit.ly/2QBkjrN>) to register and to learn more about the High-level Virtual Dialogue on Feeding Africa on 29-30 April 2021.

Distributed by APO Group on behalf of African Development Bank Group (AfDB).

“I knew I wanted to follow my passion for agriculture full-time,” the 29-year-old Nigerian said.

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GREEN GOLD: AVOCADO FARMING ON THE RISE IN AFRICA



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“Avocado is actually a godsend because farmers can use it as an alternative to coffee farming,” Sammy Carsan, agroforestry scientist at the World Agroforestry Center in Nairobi.



© Musubi Farm/Jju

Smallholder farming holds the promise of more sustainable avocado production in East Africa and Nigeria. In East Africa and Nigeria, avocado farmers want to enter the insatiable export market. Environmental concerns cast a shadow over the crop in other parts of the world. What will African farmers do differently?

Baker Ssengendo’s vision for the future of Uganda starts with an avocado seedling. “The avocado tree has a lifespan of about 50 years. The life expectancy of an average Ugandan is about 60 years. A tree can benefit them their entire life,”.

Ssengendo works on the 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) of Musubi Farm in Nansana, central Uganda — the largest Hass avocado farm in the country. “By working in avocado farming, I am fulfilling my life dream. We want to lift our communities out of poverty.”

Due to high global demand, the avocado has become a lucrative export product. Its consumption per capita increased by 406% between 1990 and 2017 in the US alone.

The so-called green gold is rapidly gaining popularity on the African continent. Both Nigeria and Uganda aim to drastically increase their avocado production and become top exporters in the next decade. Kenya is already among the global top 10. Export revenues in the East African country surged by a third between 2019 and 2020. Farmers are hailing the crop as an antidote to poverty in rural areas.

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TANZANIA: HOW TO MAKE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE SUSTAINABLE



These leading “path-finders” who spanned from Government entities, Private Universities, Bourses and Banks, formulated clear vision and were able to define their environment so much so that their fields became a n envy of the world. Their practical .

SO, a thirst to see investment in agriculture skyrocketing is high now probably than any time before, nearly everyone wants to see some form of modernised practice in the field, high-end tech processing plants, a bigger chunk of cultivated land under irrigation, huge and unconstrained supply of improved seeds to the farmers, equally important an increased uptake and the likes.

Since we have tried and tried for years “with no significant” changes,

all the above-mentioned improvements will only be brought by increased flowing of foreign investors who are ready and eager to see that the country transit from this level and make a sector of a benefit to many, or so many people belonging to a number of different ranks have this thinking.

It is a no brainer that our sector, much as it is sufficient to meet national food requirements, its surplus is not that huge to meet global food demand – making us producing below potential – and too little to sustain the producers’ needs when stopped from farming due to calamities like floods and droughts.

The above situation begs, not an emergency intervention, but a malicious mind set redress in areas of

investment. How are we going to get out of this trap? Now it is important that we attract foreign investment in the sector, and this should spread along the value chain, from farming to processing to trading. Foreign investors usually come with huge capital, latest technology and knowledge of markets that will consume what he or she is going to produce.

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