



# Africa Lead Newsletter



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## About the Africa Lead Program:

Africa Lead is USAID’s Feed the Future primary capacity building program in sub Saharan Africa. The program works to help realize Feed the Future (FTF) and the African Union’s Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) goals of reduced hunger and poverty.

Africa Lead II builds on the success of the predecessor capacity-building program (Africa Lead I) and works with countries and regions to develop strategic long-term activities to strengthen African decision-makers, institutions, non-state actors (NSAs), including the private sector at the forefront of increased agricultural productivity, promote food security and reduce hunger.

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# Africa Lead Components

## Component One



Improving Institutional Capacity to Manage Agricultural Development

## Component Two



Strengthening Capacity to Manage and Implement the Policy Change and Alignment Process

## Component Three



Promoting the Effective, Inclusive Participation of Non-State Actors (NSAs) in the Policy Process





## Regional Program

### *ECOWAS Ministerial Committee Approves the 2025 Strategic Framework Policy (SFP) and 2016-2020 Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (RAIP)*

Africa Lead in collaboration with CILSS and Hub Rural supported ECOWAS to organize a ministerial meeting in Abuja on December 16, 2016.

The meeting brought together key Non State Actors, regional partners and 31 representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture of the 15 ECOWAS Member States to review and approve the 2025 SFP and the 2016-2020 RAIP.

The discussions at the meeting centred on the three specific RAIP objectives outlined below:

- *Promotion of strategic commodities for food security and sovereignty*
- *Promotion of a global environment conducive for agricultural development*
- *Reduction of food vulnerability and the promotion of sustainable access to food*

The approval of the policy documents is expected to help ECOWAS to facilitate the alignment of the National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) with the regional framework. This will create the enabling environment for managing the policy process, which includes the effective engagement of state and non-state actors to promote agricultural transformation.

### *Young Professionals support regional organizations in West Africa*

Africa Lead has placed four young professionals at the ECOWAS Commission, CILSS Executive Secretariat in Burkina Faso, the Sahel Institute (INSAH) in Mali and the Agrhymet Center in Niger. The professionals are to fill capacity



gaps identified during recent institutional capacity assessments conducted at these organizations.

Two experienced professionals in communications were placed with CILSS-INSAH and ECOWAS to help strengthen their communications systems. Similarly, two professionals have been assigned to CILSS-Agrhymet and the CILSS' Executive Secretariat to support the monitoring and evaluation departments.

The young professionals were orientated in Accra to strengthen their capacities on the CAADP principles, work planning and report writing skills before they were posted to the institutions. They currently support these institutions to develop and maintain strong communication/monitoring and evaluation systems that enable them to better track their performances, report on and communicate the impact of their work properly to stakeholders and the public.

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## Ghana Program



*Female Farmers call for favourable Agricultural policies*

On September 14 and 15, 2016, Africa Lead hosted its first Super Champions for Change Women’s Conference in Accra. The conference themed; *“Seize the Moment: Securing Africa’s Rise through Agricultural Transformation”* brought together 84 women in farming, processing and agribusiness.

Mrs. Helena Azu was optimistic that, this will inject dynamism in farming among women. *“Our women need favourable policies now to move on, so putting in place the enabling environment will motivate them to produce more,”* she said.



*“The time is ripe for women to take leadership roles and bring about the food revolution in Africa for our future generation”*

**Dr. Hannah Bisiw** - Former Deputy Minister in charge of livestock

The women used the occasion to call on government to introduce robust agricultural policies that favour females and seek to remove the inimical traditional and cultural practices that hinder women active engagement in agriculture. The Gender Desk Officer of the Farmers Organization Network in Ghana,

The two former Deputy Ministers of Agriculture: Dr. Alhassan Yakubu and Dr. Hannah Bisiw who graced the occasion lauded the contribution of women in nation building and encouraged them to take agriculture seriously. *“The time is ripe for women to take leadership roles and bring about the food revolution in Africa for*





our future generation”, stated; Dr. Bissiw, Deputy Minister in charge of livestock. The conference brought together the women to network, share experiences and learn more innovative ways of farming, processing and how to start and grow their own agribusinesses.

### Four Organizations Awarded Grants for capacity Building Initiatives in Ghana



**Africa Lead has awarded grants totaling \$359,822** to three institutions and its Youth Champions for Change (C4C) Network; the Africa Youth Network for Agricultural Transformation (AYNAT), Inland Culture Fisheries Association of Ghana (ICFAG), the Business and Development Consultancy Centre (BADECC), Savanna Integrated Rural Development Aid (SIRDA) and the Private Enterprise Federation (PEF).

The grants will support these institutions to engage actively in policy advocacy and capacity building to key stakeholders to promote agriculture and food security.

The grantees have carried out several policy advocacy, leadership and good management outreach campaigns to several stakeholders across the country.

For instance, with the grants support, SIRDA has launched an Integrated Farm Management and Value-Chain Development (IFMVD) program that is building the capacities of women farmers in Northern Ghana to increase their production.



AYNAT has established an agribusiness incubation program to pioneer Agri-Business incubation that will maximize the success quotient of start-up enterprises and as well encourage the youth to engage in Agriculture and agribusiness.





### *Africa Lead Celebrates 2016 International Rural Women's Day*

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The International Rural Women's day is annually celebrated to honor and recognize the role of women in agriculture, rural development, poverty eradication and nation building.

This year, Africa Lead joined key partners to mark the celebration under the theme **"Empowering our women; Ensuring Food Security and Promoting Nutrition"**.

As a food security promotion project that seek to empower women, and reduce poverty, **Africa Lead sees the day as a platform to showcase its commitment to contribute to rural food security and promote women empowerment.**

For two years now, Africa Lead has celebrated the contributions made by distinguished women in the country and encourages them to aspire to greater heights.





## Nigeria Program

### *Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) to revive Agriculture Sector in Nigeria*



In December 2016, Africa Lead in collaboration with the National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS) organized a consultation meeting for stakeholders in the agricultural sector in Abuja.

Participants deliberated on the ways to improve coordination between state and non-state actors to implement the Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP). The APP is the Nigerian government new policy framework to revive the agriculture sector to boost food production and create jobs.

*The meeting brought together 30 representatives from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), governmental agencies, civil society organizations, development partners, and the private sector to review and clarify the roles and responsibilities of actors involved in implementing the new policy for 2016-2020.*

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clarify the roles and responsibilities of actors involved in implementing the new policy for 2016-2020.

The recommendations from the meeting included the following:

- *The APP policy document will be made simple and concise for use by stakeholders*
- *There will be a sustained linkage of APP with ECOWAP and the CAADP principles*
- *There should be increased investments in agriculture at the federal, state and local government levels*

At the end of the meeting stakeholders were sensitized on the APP and are committed to adjust their agricultural strategies and practices to align with the new policy framework to promote agricultural transformation.



## Senegal Program

### *African Universities to institutionalize Africa Lead Champions for Change (C4C) Leadership Module*

Africa Lead has collaborated with some African Universities to integrate its C4C module into their syllabi for delivery to undergraduate and graduate students in the field of agriculture. The universities include Obafemi Alowolo Universtiy (OAU), University of Benin (UNIBEN), University of Nigeria in Nsukka (UNN) and the University of Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Senegal.

So far, in Senegal UCAD has successfully integrated the module into its Higher Institute of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship core curriculum. To ensure sustainability, Africa Lead conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) course of the module to 27 participants using methodologies

that modeled experiential learning and cognitive psychology principles to develop and strengthen the in-house capacity of the University.

This initiative will stimulate greater agricultural entrepreneurship drive among college students and the young people in the country to help promote food security.

*The **C4C Module** will stimulate greater agricultural entrepreneurship drive among college students and the young people in the country to help promote food security.*





## Sierra Leone Program



### *Africa Lead Launches Program in Sierra Leone*

The Africa Lead Sierra Leone program was officially launched on October 12, 2016 in the country's capital Freetown. In attendance were Mr. Sheku Kamara, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), Dr. William Kaschack, a representative from the USAID Mission and over 62 representatives from MAFFS and other public and non-state actors.

The program will help build the capacity of key agricultural stakeholders to enable them create a more efficient, effective and inclusive policy processes and to advocate for policy reforms that will help boost the agricultural sector performance in the country.

After the launch, Africa Lead delivered its Champions for Change (C4C) leadership course to 44 (32 male and 12 female) staff

selected from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), other public agencies and representatives from non-state actors.

The C4C curriculum which covered the CAADP results framework and the Malabo Declaration principles have also been delivered to several people in Ghana, Nigeria, DRC, Burkina Faso and Senegal. As a result of these courses, majority of the people who participated are equipped with the needed skills to contribute to food security and agricultural transformation.

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## Guinea Program

### *National Agricultural Policy and Investment Plan Revisions in Guinea*

Africa Lead and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) have partnered to help the Government of Guinea evaluate the policy and institutional environment for the revision of its National Agricultural Policy (PNDA) and National Agriculture & Food Security Investment Plan (PNIASA), as well as to develop a strategic plan for the Ministry of Agriculture.

A team comprising of Africa Lead and IFPRI completed the policy and institutional review, which generated learning from the previous National Agriculture Investment Plan's (NAIP's) formulation and implementation process and examined the extent to which the sector-wide targeted outcomes have been achieved.

The review provided recommendations to improve the monitoring and evaluation system, the review and dialogue mechanism, and to build the capacity of key institutions to plan and implement the PNIASA.

#### **The review answered questions about:**

- *The extent to which existing national policies and investment strategies are tackling key constraints to achieving the CAADP goals;*
- *The absence of operating structures in the country to effectively and transparently allocate and utilize 10% of the national budget for the agricultural sector and the lack of a budgetary and investment strategy to achieve sector-wide objectives;*
- *The priority for the country's agricultural sector to be better aligned with Economic Community of West African States Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) priorities and to benefit from more regional cooperation.*



## The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Program

### Congolese Delegation Participates in the 2016 African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF)

In September 2016, the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) themed **“Seize the Moment”** brought together over 1,500 influential figures from across many countries such as President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Kenya’s President, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, key representatives from other sectors, development partners and donors in Nairobi Kenya.

Participants at the forum deliberated on ways to increase investments in agriculture to boost production, income and employment for farmers and local African agriculture businesses. They also shared their insights on how to create, align and leverage financial, technical, policy and market-expanding resources to develop game-changing and inclusive agribusiness models for Africa.

The Congolese delegation which included representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Confederation of Congolese farmer organizations, the Federation of Congolese Enterprises (FCE) and the Ministry of Agriculture broaden their knowledge on agricultural related issues at the regional and continental level.

Romain Kyalire, a representative from the Federation of Congolese Farmer Organizations remarked that, “it is good we are aware of the continental agriculture discussions and so we can take actions back home”

Africa Lead will further support the delegation to implement their action plans to help accelerate agricultural growth in the DRC.



# Champions Corner

For many years, working as a head porter commonly called “Kayayee” has been one of the major social plagues that threaten girl child education in Northern Ghana.

Kayayee is a Ghanaian term that literally means girls or women who work in the market places of large cities as head porters carrying the loads of shoppers in buckets or baskets on their heads for a fee.

More than 7,787 Kayayee who live in Ghana’s capital, Accra, and other cities, are between the ages of 10 and 35. (Kayayee-UNFPA Special Report 2006-2011). Most of them have

migrated to southern metropolises from the northern regions where agriculture is seasonal with no or little to earn outside the harvest seasons. Some of them are also run-away brides or young wives from polygamous marriages who face a range of domestic issues.

Without adequate support upon arrival in the city, most of these porters become homeless and sleep in the streets and market places



*Agribusiness, an Empowering Tool for Rural Women to Fight the “Kayayee” Menace in Northern Ghana”*



Hajara Taimako  
A Champion

**More than 7,787 Kayayee who live in Ghana’s capital, Accra, and other cities, are between the ages of 10 and 35.** (Kayayee- UNFPA Special Report 2006-2011)





where they work. They become exposed to poor hygiene and sanitation-related illnesses such as diarrhea, occupational hazards and gender-based violence such as rape leading to sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV, unplanned pregnancies and illegal abortions.

Growth have recognized Hajara's efforts and have supported her to train more women to improve livelihoods in the North. She is a lead resource person for the National Food Buffer Stock Company, where she trains rural women in rice processing.

*“Through these trainings, we have empowered most women in food processing so that they can earn extra income aside the farming they do. They now engage in ventures that are safer and much more reliable to earn income while staying at home. This at least gives them some peace of mind”. – Hajara Taimako*



This “heart breaking” situation inspired Hajara Taimako, an entrepreneur and farmer from Northern Ghana to contribute to the transformation of the lives of these young women. Applying the skills gained from the various C4C trainings she attended, Madam Hajara has trained approximately 563 leaders from several communities in the Northern region on key income generating activities such as moringa, baobab, rice, shea butter and soybean processing. These leaders have in turn cascaded the training to over 5000 women in their communities.

Hajara believes that when the women find alternate ways to earn income through agriculture, they are able to keep their children in school. She aspires to complete constructing her own factory to enable her train more women and girls in the North.

This has helped to improve the economic status of most women and girls and helped them to break out from the Kayaye trade.

Several organizations including the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) and the Northern Rural

# 563

Trained Leaders

From several communities in the **Northern region** on key **income generating activities** such as moringa, baobab, rice, shea butter and soybean processing.

# 5000

**Women**

Trained by the Leaders in their communities



## ***Some Testimonials from our Champions***

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**“ I have used the training I received from Africa Lead to transform the lives and empower over 600 rural women in about 3 regions in Ghana. With the advocacy skills I taught them, these women are now able to speak up for their rights in mining communities where they are now given good benefits for the use of their lands....the women are now able to earn enough to feed and educate their children”.**

***Gladys Serwah Adusah,***  
*Women’s Leader-Farmers Organization Network Ghana.*

**“I decided against all odds to go into agriculture after becoming a Champion for Change because I knew it was the right path for me. My family never understood my decision to break away from the tradition of going to college, graduate and get a white-collar job. I am a success story in my family today because with the help of my mother and sister, I have acquired land and seeds to start my own commercial farming business”**

***Juliana Naa Norkor,***  
*Champion for Change*

**“My first encounter with Africa Lead was in September 2014 at the Champions for Change Leadership training program. I was equipped with knowledge and facilitation skills that enabled me to successfully organize and facilitate leadership training programs for NGOs and leaders of selected institutions across the country.”**

***Henry Jackson Nsiah,***  
*Final year student, Damongo Agricultural College, Northern Ghana.*







## Upcoming Activities



1. Support for formulation of NAIP-FNS 2.0 in Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso.
2. Strengthen the capacity of the Ministries of Agriculture and key partners(NSAs) in the region so that they can better plan, manage and lead their agricultural initiatives.
3. Scale up the diversity and C4C training of senior members of agricultural institution who are needed to champion agriculture and food security policies and projects.
4. Design and implement custom coaching, mentoring and agribusiness training programs to key institutions and agri-preneurs.



# Nuggets of wisdom

## Food Security Quote

“We simply can no longer afford to deny the full potential of one half of the population. The world needs to tap into the talent and wisdom of women.

Whether the issue is food security, economic recovery, health, or peace and security, the participation of women is needed now more than ever.”

**Michelle Bachelet**, President of Chile



<https://www.facebook.com/Champions4Change>



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