



# YOUTH TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2019



Brazil Africa  
Institute



**YOUTH TECHNICAL  
TRAINING PROGRAM**

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# INTRODUCTION

Brazil and the African continent have several similarities, one of them being in the agricultural field. Both regions have complementary characteristics, which can create possibilities for cooperation and technology transfer.

In this matter, the Brazil Africa Institute (IBRAF), as a facilitator of this approximation, held another edition of the Youth Technical Training Program (YTTP) at Embrapa Cassava & Fruit in Cruz das Almas, State of Bahia.

The program aims at promoting knowledge transfer and developing skills of young Africans in various sectors, including agriculture, health, infrastructure and education. After developing these abilities, they may be able to share the learned content and apply it in their own realities.

Over the past decades, Brazil has transformed its agricultural production. The country went from being a food importer to become a food producer, turning into one of the largest exporters in the world. This experience has served as a model for other nations all across the globe, and the country has been one of the major promoters of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, especially with Africa.

In the latest edition of the YTTP, which took place between November 4th and 8th of 2019, 26 young Africans from Ghana, Malawi and Nigeria participated in the Workshop on Post-Harvest Processing of Cassava. The goal was to train the participants in research and technology transfer regarding cassava processing, thus contributing to the development of the capacity of its participants.

The subject is very relevant as cassava plays an important role in the African agricultural economy. With the workshop, the expectation was that participants could learn new ways to add value to their products.

Thus, the Brazil Africa Institute and its partners through YTTP act as a corroborating agents for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals established in the United Nations Agenda 2030, such as Zero Hunger

(SDG2), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and Partnership for the Goals (SDG 17), among others.

This edition of the YTTP was organized in partnership with Embrapa, the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



# THE PARTICIPANTS

This year's YTTP received 26 participants from three countries: Ghana, Malawi and Nigeria.

The participants were:

**Roseline Delali Ashigbui** – Ghana  
**Francis Ayitey Tagoe** – Ghana  
**Ophelia Osei** – Ghana  
**Peter Asante** – Ghana  
**Kate Amoakowaah Obour** – Ghana  
**Janet Adomaa Onwona Boamah** – Ghana  
**Lucy Okwan Baah** – Ghana  
**Mark Kofi Ankomah** – Ghana  
**Sumaila Mohammed** – Ghana  
**Hayford Kwakuvi Ketor** – Ghana  
**Eric Kwasi Dzidedi Botey** – Ghana  
**Charlotte Obeng** – Ghana  
**Erica Wobiasi Sunu** – Ghana  
**Felix Babatunde Omolayo** – Nigeria  
**Ayodeji Temitope Akeju** – Nigeria  
**Olufemi Olawale Adenekan** – Nigeria  
**Ifeoluwa Tryphena Olatayo** – Nigeria  
**Ayandegi Raphael Onilude** – Nigeria  
**Abraham Buchi Ogbowu** – Nigeria  
**Pamtongho Augustine Etorti** – Nigeria  
**Samuel Kalenga Phiri** – Malawi  
**Jean Pankuku** – Malawi  
**Sekani Yoram Kateta** – Malawi  
**Daniel Mwavuli** – Malawi  
**Carolyn Gondwe** – Malawi  
**Hendrine Tadala Kachule** – Malawi



# FIRST DAY: NOVEMBER 4TH, 2019

At the beginning of the program, participants were welcomed by the President of the Brazil Africa Institute, Professor João Bosco Monte. At the occasion, they had a greeting conversation, which was followed by a lecture from Embrapa's researchers, Carlos Estevão and Aldo Vilar, who addressed the objectives of the program and the relevance of the knowledge-transfer work being performed by the institution.

In the morning, researchers Hermínio Rocha and Helton Fleck presented the technology transfer project "Reniva", which was created in the Embrapa of Cruz das Almas and is aimed at the large-scale production of disease-free, drought-resistant, good genetic quality cassava seedlings, with a focus on smallholder farmers. The project is already helping farmers in different regions of Brazil and is ready to be applied in the African context.



Foto: EMBRAPA

In the afternoon, participants had the opportunity to present their own realities with cassava, addressing their personal and professional experiences and explaining its relevance in local economies, as well as the possibilities of expanding its use.

Participants also visited the NBIO Laboratory (In Vitro Propagation and Material Cleaning), where Dr. Antonio Souza presented genetically modified seedlings with characteristics to grow better in certain regions. The laboratory is specialized in the creation of enhanced seeds of cassava.



Foto: EMBRAPA

# SECOND DAY: NOVEMBER 5TH, 2019

The second day of YTTP began with the program lectures. In the morning, Dr. Joselito Motta presented the diversity of cassava roots in Brazil, showing the characteristics in each region, the presence of different roots in each state and their particularities of use. The researcher also taught the process of making colorful tapioca, a practice that aims to show the possibility of innovation by simply adding value to the product.

In the morning, participants were also introduced to the best practices of cassava cultivation by researcher Cinara Fernanda. During the class, the researcher presented a broad overview of the cassava production in Brazil, ranging from planting practices, whether for commercialization or for subsistence, to soil types and conservation techniques.

This way, participants could compare these to the techniques they apply in each of their own realities, analyzing if the work has been correctly, or if there is room for improvement.



Foto: EMBRAPA

During the afternoon, participants made their first field visit. On the occasion, they went to a breeding program plantation, where they had their first experience in how to combine the theoretical knowledge of the classroom with the practical knowledge seen in the plantation.

At the field visit, presented by researcher Vanderlei Santos, they were introduced to the particularities of the cassava seeds and the forms of reproduction. As they were in a breeding program plantation, participants could learn more about the techniques that can guarantee the success of a crop.



Foto: IBRAF

# THIRD DAY: NOVEMBER 6TH, 2019

The third day of the Youth Technical Training Program began with a presentation on the most common cassava diseases. The class was given by Embrapa's pathologist Saulo Oliveira. During the lecture, the researcher had the opportunity to present in detail the main diseases that can affect cassava plantations in both Brazil and Africa. In addition, he also exemplified the main ways to identify, treat and prevent each of them.

The young Africans were also better acquainted with good cassava processing practices in a lecture given by researcher Eliseth Viana, when they learned how to clean their roots to make them fit for consumption, ensuring that food offered is free of contaminants of physical, chemical or biological nature at concentrations that may endanger the health of the consumer.



Foto: EMBRAPA

They were also taught, by the researcher Luciana Oliveira, techniques to identify when the cassava root presents an excess of cyanogenic compounds that could put in risk the health of the consumer. In the class, they were also trained in the process of eliminating these compounds.

The classes were of great importance for participants to understand that a successful harvest requires a lot of attention, ranging from being careful with cassava plantations' diseases, to ensuring that the consumer receives a product that is not harmful to their health.



Foto: EMBRAPA

## FOURTH DAY: NOVEMBER 7TH, 2019

The fourth day of the training began with a visit to the Mercado de Farinha (Flour Market) of Cruz das Almas. The participants were accompanied by Dr. Joselito Motta, who showed the various types of products marketed with cassava, from flour to various types of biscuits. In the market, they could better visualize the wide range of products that cassava can generate.

Participants also engaged in more field visits over the day. The first was to the 2 Irmãos (2 Brothers) factory, where they were introduced to the ways of production and commercialization of tapioca. They could understand, thus, how the different cassava products they saw earlier on the market were first produced.

The second visits were to Casa de Farinha da Embrapa (Embrapa's Flour House) and to Casa de Farinha do Sr. Nere e Família (Mr. Nere and Family's Flour House), where they could learned more on the flour and gum manufacturing processes.



Foto: EMBRAPA

They had contact with not only the equipment used for these processes, but also with other products derived from cassava, such as bread, shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc.

The day also comprised lectures on minimally processed cassava with researcher Fabiana Sasaki, which introduced the participants to techniques that are able to guarantee value addition to their products.

This way, the fourth day of the YTTP allowed participants to not only better understand market potentials that involve cassava products, but to also comprehend how to create these products by their own. Thus, they can both transfer good planting practices to their reality and promote techniques that can open new markets for their goods.



Foto: IBRAF

# FIFTH DAY: NOVEMBER 8TH, 2019

The fifth and last day of activities began with a visit to the Cassava Processing Laboratory, where researchers Luciana Oliveira and Jaciene Jesus presented, in a practical way, all the procedures that should be performed in the cassava harvesting process, from cleaning to production of high added-value products.

The practical procedures of the day included: cleaning cassava; best ways to peel; best ways to cut cassava for every use (fried, cooked, vacuum freeze and chip production); and production of cassava pasta for confectionery.

The closing of the third edition of the Youth Technical Training Program took place on the night of November 8th, and was attended by researchers who taught classes to the young participants. During the ceremony, they received their participation certificates and reflected on all the knowledge that was acquired and the best ways to apply it in their realities.



Foto: EMBRAPA

This way, the Brazil Africa Institute and Embrapa, in partnership with the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), offered the participants a week of intense activities related to the cassava harvest.

It is then expected that they will be able to transfer and apply what has been learned to their realities, while also teaching other local producers these same techniques. This way, the YTTP can become one of the main knowledge-transfer programs between Brazil and the African continent, strengthening South-South Cooperation on the both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.



Foto: IBRAF

# MEDIA COVERAGE

**Correio 24 Horas:** <https://www.correio24horas.com.br/noticia/nid/estudantes-africanos-aprendem-sobre-os-derivados-da-mandioca-em-cruz-das-almas/>

**Rede Bahia de Televisão:** <http://g1.globo.com/bahia/jornal-da-manha/videos/t/edicoes/v/jovens-africanos-participam-de-intercambio-e-aprendem-sobre-cultivo-de-mandioca/8067281/>

**Terra:** <https://www.terra.com.br/noticias/dino/presidente-do-ibraf-evidencia-a-importancia-da-cooperacao-sul-sul-e-a-necessidade-de-uniao-entre-setores-publicos-e-privados-para-o-desenvolvimento,c8789308049f-813f00ba3ad49c1b8cfaxof4reqd.html>

**Agrolink:** [https://www.agrolink.com.br/noticias/africanos-recebem-treinamento-sobre-mandioca-na-bahia\\_426236.html](https://www.agrolink.com.br/noticias/africanos-recebem-treinamento-sobre-mandioca-na-bahia_426236.html)

**Momento Agrícola:** <https://momentoagricola.com.br/agricultura/africanos-recebem-treinamento-sobre-mandioca-na-bahia/>

**CanaMix (Revista Terra&Cia):** <https://www.canamix.com.br/conteudo/ibraf-oferece-capacitacao-em-pos-colheita-da-mandioca-para-jovens-africanos.html>

**Embrapa:** <https://www.embrapa.br/busca-de-noticias/-/noticia/47866750/africanos-recebem-treinamento-sobre-mandioca-na-bahia>

# STATEMENTS



**Eric Kwasi Dzidedi Botey, Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP - IFAD)**

“I’d first like to say thank you to IBRAF for putting this workshop together. In Ghana, where I come from, we do a lot of cassava farming and fortunately this program has given me insights to what we can use it for. We have limited innovations in our country, but with this program, I’m sure we will be able to help improve our economy,”

**Hayford Kwakuvi Ketor, Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP - IFAD)**

“I came here with the expectation to add value to my cassava processing work and that’s exactly what I’ve gotten here. I believe that what I learned here can be replicated in my country. I’m also sure that the knowledge shared by the professors will help us apply this in our cassava industry,”

**Charlotte Obeng, Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP - IFAD)**

“I think that the organizers of the program did a very good job. Everybody who participated in this program has been able to understand the value chain of this business. I’m also happy because I’ve learned so much in this program and hope to transfer it and teach people in my country. Another good thing is that I could meet people from other places and understand more about the similarities and differences between them, so I’m very happy with the opportunity,”

**Carolyn Gondwe (GIZ)**

“My YTTP experience was beneficial and timely. As the founder and Director of a charity organisation, the program benefits us because the organisation runs a social enterprise for sustainability purposes of which include cassava, therefore some of the value addition techniques learned will be applied to scale up. Also, one of our strategic objectives is to empower the custodians of vulnerable children with sustainable interventions through self-help and adoption of farming technologies Hence, the YTTP program has come right on time as the organisation has just received funding to empower survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in business skills and food value chains. The target district has cassava as its staple food which makes the YTTP Knowledge gained easy to adopt.”

**Abraham Buchi (FAO)**

“The program served as a platform for trying new opportunities and accessing the best practicable methods in Cassava post-harvest processing. It also improved my view on the diverse application of Cassava in the Value Chain. I will also replicate by training and sharing what has been learned to others, and also creating a platform to impact this knowledge on other farmers. Professionally, the application of this knowledge will go beyond cassava post-harvest production but into ensuring that food processing must be done with an intent not just to stop hunger, but be safe for consumption,”



# PARTICIPATION IN THE BRAZIL AFRICA FORUM

The participants of the Youth Technical Training Program also attended the Brazil Africa Forum 2019, which took place in São Paulo from November 12 to 13.

With the theme “Food Security: Path to Economic Growth”, the event reunited representatives from public and private sectors, as well as academia, to discuss it from different points of view.

At the Forum, the YTTP participants could watch the panels, expand their networking and learn more about the relevance of food security in the African context.



Foto: IBRAF



[www.ibraf.org](http://www.ibraf.org)