**News Update**

**Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) and GIZ Partner with TCoEFS to Drive Institutional Innovation in Food Security**

**Date:** April 28, 2025

**Venue:** TETFUND Centre of Excellence in Food Security, University of Jos

The **TETFUND Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS), University of Jos**, under the leadership of **Prof. Dauda Bawa**, hosted a high-level advocacy and engagement visit by the **Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA)** in partnership with the **German Development Cooperation (GIZ)**. The visit formed part of the **SIFTAS Project – Strengthening Institutional Frameworks for Transformative Agricultural Systems in Nigeria**.

**Delegation**

The SAA delegation was led by **Dr. Bidemi Ajibola** (Project Manager, SIFTAS, SAA Nigeria) and **Mr. Patrick Akpu**. They were joined by **Mr. Mwanlong Dashen** (Technical Adviser, GIZ) and representatives of the Potato Multi-Actor Platform (MAP), **Ms. Sarah Kwarpo** and **Ms. Grace Mamswa**.



The team engaged with key institutions in Plateau State, including the University of Jos, on strategies to strengthen agricultural systems and promote sustainable practices.

**Key Areas of Engagement**

The discussions focused on strategic pathways to advance agricultural transformation in Nigeria, with emphasis on:

* Integrating climate-smart and regenerative agriculture, particularly **potato agroforestry**, into academic curricula and training manuals.
* Strengthening institutional frameworks that support innovative agricultural practices such as **Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS)**, contract farming, and cooperative models.
* Developing and mainstreaming evidence-based policy frameworks that promote **sustainable food systems** and enhance resilience across agricultural value chains.

**Perspectives from the Engagement**

According to **Dr. Bidemi Ajibola**, Project Manager of the SIFTAS Project at SAA Nigeria, *“Potato Agroforestry has the potential to double farmer incomes, restore degraded land, and stabilize yields under climate stress.”*

In his remarks, **Prof. Dauda Bawa**, Director of TCoEFS, emphasized that, *“This is not just a project. It is a paradigm shift toward building resilient and inclusive food systems.”*

**Institutional Commitment**

As a Centre at the forefront of research, innovation, and capacity development in agriculture, the TCoEFS reaffirmed its commitment to:

1. Collaborate with stakeholders in mainstreaming transformative agricultural approaches.
2. Support policy and curriculum development aligned with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
3. Promote inter-institutional partnerships that drive innovation and rural development.

**Appreciation and Next Steps**

The Centre expressed its appreciation to the SAA, GIZ, and MAP teams for this meaningful engagement and for recognizing the **University of Jos** as a key partner in advancing food security and agricultural transformation in Nigeria.



Looking ahead, TCoEFS will work with its partners to deepen collaboration and translate shared ideas into **practical outcomes** that benefit farmers, communities, and the broader agricultural sector.