



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRICA LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM  
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## MEASURING RESULTS: **FOOD SAFETY FROM UGANDA TO MISSISSIPPI**

From Uganda to Mississippi, Juliet Nanyonga traveled on a unique journey for the opportunity to learn about food safety as part of Africa Lead's professional agribusiness business-to-business (B2B) exchange program which places individuals with host companies to facilitate skill transfer and exposure to effective and efficient agribusiness practices. As part of this program, Ms. Nanyonga worked for 2 months with the Mars Foods LLC – Uncle Ben's Rice - Greenville facilities which process and package a large variety of dry meals and Ready to Heat Rice. Mars graciously took in Ms. Nanyonga sharing their practice and systems, and giving her the opportunity to visit and learn about Mars' quality and food safety processes, technologies and equipment.

Ms. Nanyonga spent her time in Greenville working with the Quality & Food Safety program which is responsible for the overall quality and safety of the all products. They conduct internal audits of the factory practices and are responsible for issuing corrective actions, when needed, to ensure compliance to Mars Global standards of food safety and regulatory requirements to produce safe and clean food.

*"This practicum was an eye opener to how far I have to go in making food safe for everyone. ...It's a challenge but with the great exposure and training I have had...I believe I can lead the change I want to see in food safety and food security. It's all about passion, taking a lead and creating a difference however small it may be as long as it creates an impact."*

Ms. Nanyonga had hands on experience learning while participating in the quality audits, developing recommendations to continuously improve the food safety system, the inspections of raw materials and auditing major suppliers for a range of reasons. In addition, she was able to participate in a number of relevant trainings including, Good Manufacturing Practices, Associate Safety, Good Hygiene and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) – for which she is now also a certified trainer.

Ms. Nanyonga is the Product Development Manager at Akiba where she has many responsibilities including the quality control of their different products. In addition, she also works as a Food Technologist at Africa Innovations Institute (AFRII) where she works to produce high quality cassava flour. From Mars, Ms. Nanyonga, learned relevant skills and gained knowledge to apply to her work through her new understanding of international regulatory standards, the quality and safety procedures and practices, the development of corrective actions, as well as conducting product inspections and audits.

*"Akiba, AFRII and I will definitely set the pace to incorporate different techniques and improve food safety in our system with the available resources. Like the Mars Food logo states, **Better Food Today - Better World Tomorrow**, when food safety is achieved, we have a strong, healthy, and disease free generation that automatically translates into increased agricultural productivity, high quality and safe food and hence attaining our ultimate goal of food security."*

Ms. Nanyonga has taken what she has learned to improve the food quality and safety in her organizations; upon her return she plans on conducting a study of the current food quality and safety situation at Akiba and AFRII,



## continued

looking at the current practices in place and the degree of compliance to identify gaps.

From this study she plans on designing targeted training programs to address these existing gaps as well as educating and encouraging their farmers to use protective wear that can help improve foods safety.

And for the sustainability of her work she plans to conduct continuous trainings, audits, compliance monitoring and needed follow up actions. In addition, Ms. Nanyonga hopes to drive internal campaigns aimed at increasing food safety awareness and tree planting efforts within Akiba, AFRIL as well as her family and friends.

Overall, Ms. Nanyonga appreciates her two month stay at Mars Foods where she enhanced her overall competency, skills and knowledge, not only professionally as a food scientist, but also in safety, auditing, team work, work dynamics, risk assessments and commitment. And it is this commitment which she will take with her as she continues her work in the food safety field in Uganda. ■

*“After this great exposure, skills attained and various lessons learnt, I am ready to take the lead in creating a positive impact towards improving food quality and food safety.”*

- **Juliet Nanyonga**

**Visit us on the web at**  
[www.AfricaLeadFTF.org](http://www.AfricaLeadFTF.org)

For the latest news, training descriptions, and our online database of upcoming short courses relevant to African agriculture professionals.

**For more information, contact:**

Jeff Hill  
USAID/Bureau for Food Security  
jhill@usaid.gov

David Tardif-Douglin  
Chief-of-Party, Africa Lead  
david\_tardif-douglin@dai.com

## What is Africa Lead?

A USAID funded program which supports the Feed the Future global food security initiative working to build the capacity of African agriculture professionals to help lead change in food security.

Africa Lead supports the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) by providing 4 main services to participating countries and regions:

**Task 1: Developing and delivering leadership training modules:**

- **Module 1:** CAADP Champions for Change, a 5 day course about CAADP and leading change.
- **Module 2:** A second 4 or 5 day course, tailored to each country, has been developed to equip CAADP leaders to operationalize investment plans
- **Customized Short Courses,** Module 1&2 Hybrid, and national non-state actor workshops held to mobilize NGOs and private sector actors to participate in CAADP

**Task 2:** Providing logistical and financial support for other trainings, internships and **innovative learning partnerships** that connect participants with institutional hosts, such as the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Sokoine University of Agriculture, and private sector agribusinesses.

**Task 3: Assessing capacity needs** of national and regional institutions, CAADP Country Teams, and National Agriculture Investment Plan implementation.

**Task 4:** Developed an **online database** of short term courses offered by training institutions in the continent that can be matched to the leadership training and capacity building needs relevant to African agriculture professionals.

## RESULTS TO DATE

**Task 1:**

- ✓ **1,343** trained CAADP “Champions” from 29 countries (Module 1): (578 in East Africa, 375 in West Africa, 390 in Southern Africa)
- ✓ **333** trained in Module 2 from 23 different countries: (104 in East Africa and 229 West Africa)
- ✓ **135** trained in Customized Short Courses for CORAF& CILSS
- ✓ **707** National non-state actor workshop participants

**Task 2:**

- ✓ **12** professional interns trained in agriculture show management and agribusiness management
- ✓ **10** professional Interns for CORAF and CILSS
- ✓ **24** Interns for Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)
- ✓ Facilitation and logistics preparation for various conferences and meetings, including Champion Reunion Retreats.

**Task 3:**

- ✓ **51** institutional capacity assessments

**Task 4:**

- ✓ **1,228** Short courses in the database from **151** separate organizations.