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## Improving management of fish resources

**Lagos, August, 2017** - "The NEPAD Agency fisheries team recently had the pleasure of visiting the facility of Frijay Consult, an agro-processing company based in Lagos, Nigeria to meet with Mrs Jerry Uwherake, the Managing Director. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss, share information, knowledge and best practices on fish processing and trade as part of the Fisheries Programme activities on facilitating improved management of shrimp resources in Nigeria, Cameroon and Gabon.

Frijay Consult was established by Mrs Uwherake in 2004. In 2005 at the AU/NEPAD 'Fish for All' Summit in Abuja, Mrs Uwherake received an award for the Best Private Sector Exhibitor. This seminal conference, organised by the then NEPAD Secretariat, confirmed the importance of the sector to Africa's development and resulted in the Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa and the NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture, which set out the blueprint for the sector's re-generation and invigoration.

Since then, Frijay Consult has gone from strength to strength, processing agricultural products and exporting them to the USA, Europe and other African countries. Fisheries products produced by the company include dried fish products such as catfish, tilapia, shrimp, crayfish among other species. The company has a thriving clientele on the East coast of the USA and is in the process of establishing a distribution warehouse in Baltimore. Key activities of the company now include agro-products processing; consultancy; training; capacity building; packing and marketing; and oven construction. As part of the capacity building activities, the company is assisting women processors at some of the fish landing sites in Nigeria to establish and operate fish processing facilities and ensure higher quality products for marketing onwards. The company's projected production of smoked fish products for the next one year is about 130tons from a previous 60 tons.

In April 2017, Uwherake was elected as the 1st Vice Chairperson of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFishNET), a continental network that was established during a consultative workshop organised by AU-IBAR in collaboration with NEPAD Agency and WorldFish. In this role, she will work with the members of the network to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between women fish processor and trader associations, share best practices, experiences, and technologies, advocate for issues affecting their activities, attract increased public and private investment in fish post-harvest activities and expand their market and marketing opportunities for improved intra-regional African fish trade.

"We have also been selected by USDA as one of only two companies in Nigeria allowed to export smoked fish products into the USA, which is also a plus for our company. We also have an ongoing subsisting contract to supply selected packed Agro food items to UN Missions in Africa," Uwherake reports.

During the visit to the Frijay Consult Ltd facility, NEPAD Agency specialist consultant, Dr Amadou Tall, provided advice to the staff on quality assurance, food handling HCCP - Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point - procedures, processing techniques and technologies to reduce costs and increase economic benefits.

**Below: Fish processing in Frijay Consult's operating premises, and Jerry Uwherake with the award she received from NEPAD as Best Private Sector Exhibitor**



## Birth control or better development policies?

*Dr Ibrahim Mayaki*

It seems that time has come to debate the demography of Africa. Reports, experts and politicians have for a time been deliberating on this issue, which is sensitive in most countries. The issue is that of the rapidly growing population and its implications for birth control. Some are referring to ancient theories, like Malthus', and, not without certain logic, comparing the rate of population growth with the rate of growth of economies. Others are witnessing in the demographic growth of African a sign of liveness and future wealth for our countries.

Let us first look at the figures: The latest report by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), 'World Population Prospects, the 2017 revision,' shows that **Africa will have nearly 4.5 billion inhabitants by 2100, that is 40% of the whole human population, compared to 1.3 billion today (17% of the total population). Africa will have a population comparable to that of Asia, which, according to the same source, will see its population stabilise at 4.8 billion.**

Population growth is due to several factors: The fertility rate (5.5 in 2006 vs. 5.0 in 2016) is very high – with Niger's extreme example of 7.4 children per woman of reproductive age – but is also attributable to the increase in life expectancy which has gained 20 years in Africa since 1950 and is now 57 years. One point to remember also that population density in Africa is one of the lowest in the world.

Of course, one cannot be as specific about the rates of economic growth. But the optimistic projections indicate a growth of 4 to 6 points per year in Africa over the next coming years. This is a figure envied by most other regions of the world. We have already said how much these growth rates did not take into account the whole economic reality of our countries, the informal sector in particular, and that they were often distorted in one way or another. Faced with this situation, which side should we choose? Should we even choose a camp? Is it even possible to do so? At a time when China has reversed its enforced policy of birth control, Africa must in turn try to limit births by constraint, while studies show the desired number of children per woman in sub-Saharan Africa is greater than five?

Children are still seen in Africa as a source of wealth and an economic and social safety net. They provide manpower for farming and other work, but also pension insurance in countries that do not have any system of the sort. These are all factors that must be taken into account and which make it impossible for us to adopt binding policies.

On the other hand, making women's health and education is a priority. Fostering access to modern means of contraception while creating the conditions for the real emancipation of women and girls is crucial in efforts aimed at lowering fertility rates.



## Accelerating the Inga3 Project

**Kinshasa, August 11, 2017** – The Inga 3 project and its hydroelectric plant at Inga Falls on the mighty Congo River in the Democratic Republic of Congo, will, for the first time in Africa generate electricity of more than 10 000 MW.

A NEPAD Agency mission was undertaken to the Agency for Grand Inga Development and Promotion of the Democratic Republic of Congo (ADPI-DRC), from 10-11 August in Kinshasa, as part of NEPAD's mandate to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of Africa's priority programmes and projects. The objective for the mission was to conduct consultations and working sessions with ADPI experts in order to take appropriate and practical measures to accelerate the commencement of the Inga3 Project.

The findings and recommendations during the NEPAD Agency's mission are contained in an aide-memoire that will be signed by both parties. The time spent in the DRC provided an opportunity to take stock of the actual working conditions of the ADPI, noting the current progress of the Inga3 Project. Inquiry into the concerns and needs of the ADPI was also made in order for the NEPAD Agency and ADPI to agree on a strategy with an action plan to accelerate the implementation of this flagship and strategic Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) project. This will go a long way in contributing to the objectives of Agenda 2063 on access to electricity in Africa.

A new vision for the promotion of Grand Inga and Inga3, based on an integrated project approach that contributes to the socio-economic development of the DRC, the sub-region and the continent of Africa was also agreed upon.

The NEPAD Agency team, which was led by Mr Aboubakari Baba-Moussa, Senior Advisor to the CEO, was welcomed by Mr Daniel Mukutu Ndombasi, ADPI's Technical Director. HE Mr Bruno Kapandji Kalala, Head of State Mission Officer in charge of the ADPI-RDC, thanked Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency, for sending a team to undertake the mission at an opportune time. He also lauded NEPAD's efforts towards ensuring good cooperation between the two institutions in order to provide the necessary support to the government of the DRC to accelerate the implementation of the Inga3 Project and of the Grand Inga overall. Mr Kapandji Kalala also highlighted the strategic orientation and information on the Inga3 project as well as the prospects for strengthening the ADPI.

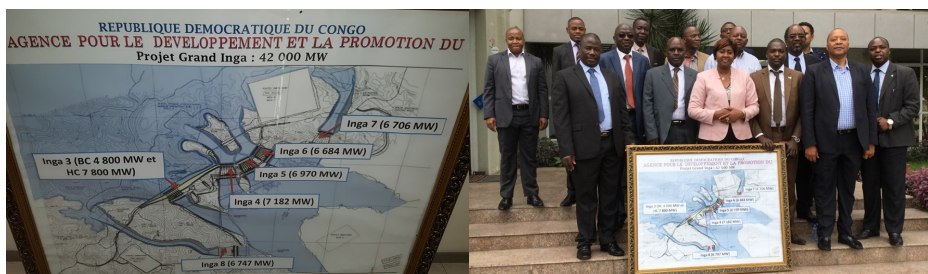
Mr Baba-Moussa reaffirmed the commitment of the NEPAD Agency towards fulfilling its role in helping to strengthen the capacity of ADPI-DRC. The efforts will also go towards ADPI-DRC's missions in its national, regional, continental and international dimensions, towards the promotion and development of Grand Inga and Inga3.

The Inga3 and Grand Inga projects are both PIDA Priority Action Plan (PIDA-PAP) projects and flagship projects in Agenda 2063. Thus, with the realisation of Inga3, for the first time in Africa, we will generate electricity of more than 10 000 MW to be transported by a network of interconnecting transmission lines.

The DRC and South Africa have already signed a power purchase agreement for 2500 MW. The DRC and the countries in Central Africa are also in the process of establishing more Power Purchase Agreements. Power purchase agreements will also have to be signed between the DRC and the countries through which the transmission lines will pass on the way to South Africa.

Currently, the Inga3 project has seen the ADPI-DRC Agency go through tender processes and bringing on board a pro-Inga international partners (American-Hispanic) and Chinese groups to form a consortium to present an Optimised Common Offer on the High-Fall, with production power of between 10,000 MW and 12,000 MW. This combined offer is expected to be presented by the end of September 2017. The initial cost of the Inga3 project, estimated at US\$12 billion will be revised, while financing will be through a public-private partnership. The actual production of electricity is projected for 2021.

There is hope that will Africa finally start providing for its people sustainable electric power, at a lower cost towards the continent's industrial transformation.

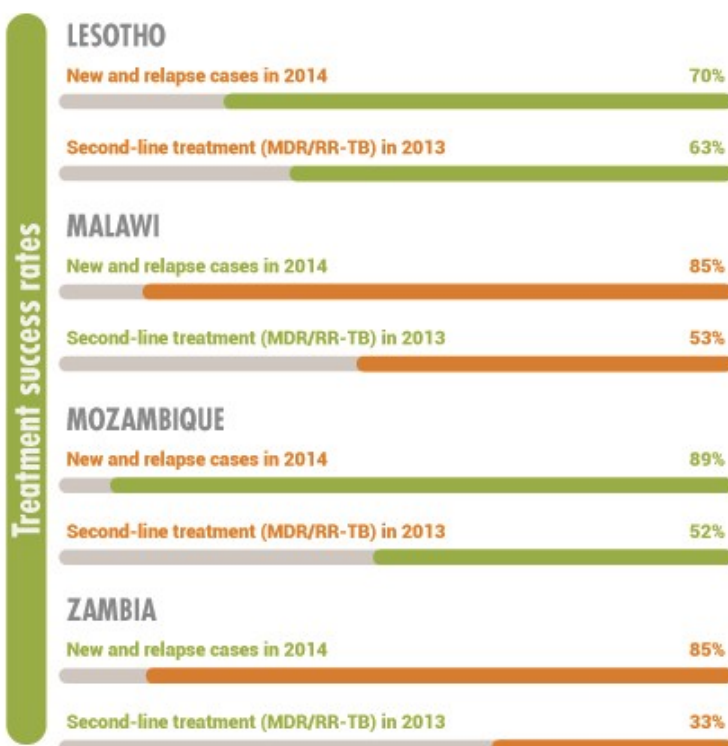


## Introduction to the Southern African Tuberculosis and Health Systems Support project

The TB epidemic is particularly prevalent in Africa. But, beyond the huge challenges it poses to health and economic development on the continent, the hot spots found in Africa form pockets of resistance and hotbeds that could jeopardise the global control of tuberculosis and undermine global health. For instance, out of the estimated 10.4 million people who fell ill with TB in 2015, 2.7 million originated from Africa. The continent accounts for 281 new TB cases per 100,000 population. This exceeds the World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 250 per 100,000 and accounts for 34% of TB deaths.

If the continent is to win the war against TB, efforts have to be targeted where it matters most: in the vulnerable communities and hot spots for the spread of the disease such as mining communities (more vulnerable because of silica dust exposure), transport corridors, labour sending communities, correctional facilities, migrants and refugees. The unique relationships between TB and HIV, TB and poverty, and TB and mining require a multi-sectorial integrated approach. For instance, involving organisations responsible for labour and mining will facilitate tackling TB as an occupational disease. Investment from the private sector can also accelerate the fight against TB in Africa.

The Southern African Tuberculosis and Health Systems Support (SATBHSS) project was launched in Maputo, Mozambique in December of 2016. The project is funded by the World Bank (WB) and implemented in four Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries; Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Lesotho. The project is coordinated by the NEPAD Agency and East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) through technical support to the project countries. The aim of the SATBHSS project is to improve coverage and quality of key TB control and occupational lung disease services in targeted geographic areas of the participating countries and strengthen regional capacity to manage the burden of TB and occupational diseases in SADC.



More information from the project brochure is accessible [here](#).

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