

ATDF NEWS

SYNGENTA FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATDF BUSINESS PLAN

Following a meeting between the Executive Director of Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (<http://www.syngentafoundation.org/>) and ATDF Management Team on 20 May 2005, Geneva, The Foundation and ATDF have recently signed an agreement to facilitate the development of ATDF Business Plan. The Foundation will provide financial support to meet some of the costs of consultancy during the development of this work.

The main goal is to help develop some of ATDF's main ideas into concrete proposals and integrate them into a business plan that might be supported by other development agencies.

Some of the initiatives being developed include:

Science, mathematics and engineering learning materials of universities.

The aim of the project is to develop high quality and reliable science-related learning and teaching materials for African universities. ATDF wishes to harness the talent of Africans abroad and at home as well as the experiences of international experts to develop learning, teaching and research materials or manuals, and recommend how ATDF will raise sufficient awareness and interest among scientists and effectively distribute the learning materials to universities with limited access to the internet.

Improve ATDF outreach and information dissemination.

The main objective is to improve the usefulness, expansion and reach of the ATDF Journal and the ATDF Website into premier

sources of science, technology and development-related information. ATDF is also seeking to find ways to improve the performance and broaden the scope of the ATDF Journal as well as their sustainability.

Technology Guardian Program: Entrepreneurship and business incubation.

The Technology Guardian initiative seeks to promote technology entrepreneurship and business incubation. The project would recommend and develop concrete plans how ATDF could effectively mobilize R&D centres, professional associations, interested private firms and development partners to serve as incubator managers and business advisors to the SMES and start-ups.

The SMEs development and support project

This project focuses on mobilizing entrepreneurship at African universities and to facilitate the development, expansion and efficiency of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises that participate in and eventually emerge from the project. For this purpose it will set up business-assistance institutions at local universities that are run by local entrepreneurs for local entrepreneurs.

This activity is expected to take three months and the main document should be available in January 2006

The ATDF Management wish to thank Syngenta Foundation for its support for this project and interest in the development of ATDF.

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ATDF WELCOMES TWO MORE EDITORS TO ITS EDITORIAL BOARD AND A BIG “THANK YOU” TO ALL.

The Management Team of ATDF wishes to welcome Anna Atherton-Griggs and Teisha Öberg to the ATDF Editorial Board. The Management Team also wishes to thank most sincerely all the members of its Editorial Team, including our editors that have opted to remain anonymous, for their valuable contributions.

The launch of this health issue of the journal also marks ATDF's first year. For this reason, we wish to thank all the people that have contributed their time and resources in running ATDF. Through your efforts we have been able to reach over twenty thousand people every month.

Anna Atherton-Griggs



Teisha Öberg



Anna Atherton-Griggs is a project officer for the UNEP/UNCTAD Capacity-Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) in Geneva. She is currently working on a project aimed at promoting production and trading opportunities for organic agricultural products in East Africa. She has previously worked on natural resource management in developing countries, the protection and promotion of traditional knowledge and biodiversity preservation.

Teisha Öberg works at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) as Programme Associate to the Africa and Legal Affairs Programme. She is a lawyer with specialization in trade issues. She earned her Bachelor of Laws with Honours at the University of the West Indies, a Certificate of Legal Education from the Norman Manley Law School and a Masters in Business and International Trade Law from Yokohama National University in Japan.