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# DELTA STATE JOB AND WEALTH CREATION BUREAU

Governor's Office, Asaba



## STEP AND YAGEP HALL OF FAME

Personal Testimonies of  
STEPpreneurs, YAGEpreneurs &  
GEEP Beneficiaries

Vol. 1, January 2022





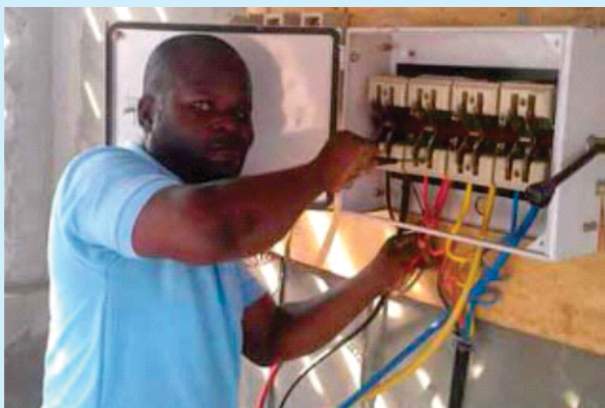
*“Our job creation schemes have helped to tackle youth unemployment, prevent youth restiveness, stimulate the agricultural sector, and promote the growth of micro and small enterprises”.*

**Governor Ifeanyi A. Okowa**





*"I have taken electrical installation to the next level" - STEPpreneur Uche*



**EMMANUEL UCHE** hails from Aniocha Local Government Area and holds a BSC in Medical Biochemistry from the University of Benin. He got enrolled in STEP in the 2016/2017 Cycle when he was trained and established in Electrical Installation and Repairs. He is the CEO of Marvict Electrical Store, Issele-Uku. He is efficient and knowledgeable in his line of enterprise. He has installed electricity in over 60 buildings. He is a resource person and a trainer with the Delta State Government's Rural Youth Skill Acquisition (RYSA.)

"I have trained 34 persons and currently have 7 trainees from RYSA in my centre. I have featured in a number of exhibitions, and was part of the team of electricians that installed electricity in the venue for the 2017 Job Creation Product Exhibition.

"Consistency, availability and customer care are the hallmark for any successful business. I have taken electrical installation to the next level by going for re-training in Transformer Installation and Repair at Obosi in Anambra State, which has enhanced my marketability and increased the quality of clients attracted to me.

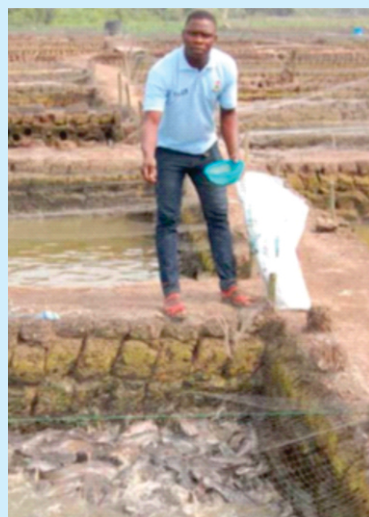
"I have two employees and have achieved a lot for himself and my family in the past five years. I have a flourishing electrical shop; have bought a car and am building a house".

*"My life has been transformed from state of unemployment to employer of labour" - YAGEPpreneur Egbri*

**BELIEVE MARK EGBRI** is the CEO of Believer's Global Service Enterprise. He hails from Ethiope East Local Government Area and was trained in Fish Production by the State Government through its Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) in the 2016/2017 Cycle.

"I attended Delta State Polytechnic, Ozoro where I obtained a National Diploma in Business Administration and Management. I was trained and established at YAGEP Fish Farm Cluster, Ugbokodo-Okpe. The experience I acquired from my trainer and on the job experience from the various cycles I have executed have improved my practice in fish production, in terms of feeding, water quality management and death rate mortality control.

My business has grown. From two fish ponds and 2,000 fishes, I now have five fish ponds stocked with 5,000 post fingerlings; I have three workers. Individuals and schools come for training and excursion. I have a plot of land which I plan to develop for hatchery unit that will employ more youths and reduce the rate of unemployment in society. My life has been transformed from being in the state of unemployment to that of an employer of labour. I thank the Governor for his Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) and for making me a man about to get married.



## Prologue

'STEP and YAGEP Hall of Fame' is an informative and promotional tool designed to recognize, congratulate and project outstanding STEPpreneurs and YAGEPpreneurs. The premise of this publication is that after six and half years of implementing the job creation programmes, Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) and Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP), time has come to give attention to programme outcomes and impacts.

Therefore, the Hall of Fame series contains personal testimonies of STEPpreneurs and YAGEPpreneurs. The testimonies and stories reveal how and to what extent STEP and YAGEP has refined their attitudes, developed their aptitudes, changed them from job seekers to self-employed/job creators and provided the ladder for occupational growth, economic and social transition.

This maiden publication of the Hall of Fame series gives a small sample of outstanding STEPpreneurs and YAGEPpreneurs. Subsequent edition will profile more outstanding beneficiaries who will be identified from time to time. In addition to



**Prof. Eric Eboh**  
Chief Job and Wealth Creation Officer

inspiring and energizing the persons profiled in the Hall of Fame, this information resource is useful as a disseminator of role models to peers and stakeholders.

Overall, the tribute goes to His Excellency, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, Governor of Delta State, for his unflinching faith in the potentials of Delta youths. Moreover, his clear vision, sound planning and pivotal leadership of the job creation programmes are instrumental to the outcomes and impacts of STEP and YAGEP.

## GENERAL PROGRAMME STATISTICS FROM 2015 TO 2021

INDICATOR	NUMBER OR PER CENT
Total No. of beneficiaries from 2015 to date	6,074 nos.
STEP beneficiaries as per cent of total beneficiaries	75%
YAGEP beneficiaries as per cent of total beneficiaries	25%
Male beneficiaries as per cent of total beneficiaries	51%
Female beneficiaries as per cent of total beneficiaries	49%
HND/BSc Holders as per cent of total beneficiaries	39%
WASC holders as per cent of total beneficiaries	46%
NCE/OND holders as per cent of total beneficiaries	16%

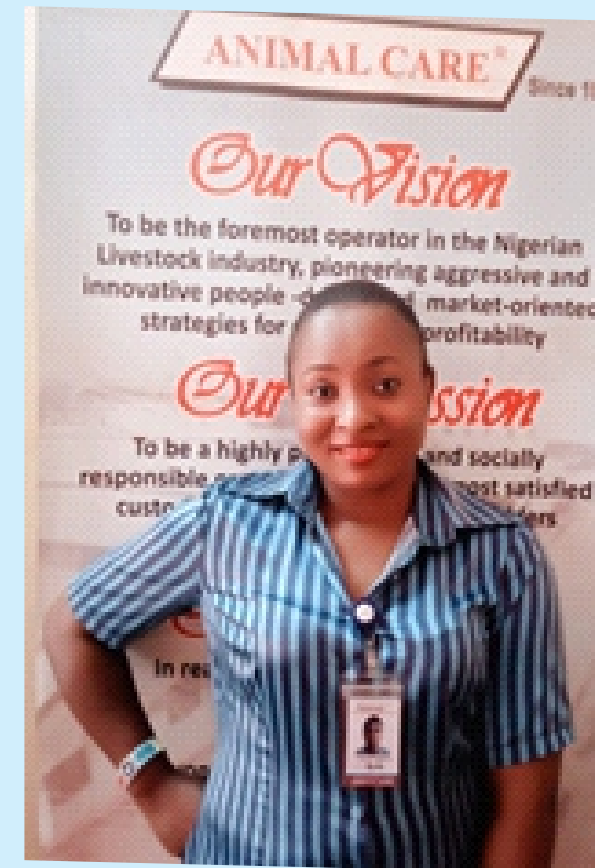
## PROFILE OF YAGEP BENEFICIARIES FROM 2015 TO 2021

TYPE OF AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE	PER CENT
Fish production	43%
Crop production	27%
Poultry	24%
Piggery	4%
YAGEP - Agroprocessing/Apiculture	2%

## PROFILE OF STEP BENEFICIARIES FROM 2015 TO 2021

TYPE OF ENTERPRISE	PER CENT
Fashion Design & Tailoring	23%
Catering & Confectionary	16%
Hair dressing & Makeover	15%
Electrical and Solar Works	9%
Information & Communication Technology Services	10%
Welding & Fabrication	5%
Interlocking, Tiling, PoP & Block Moulding	6%
Decoration & Event Management	6%
Audio-Visual Services	3%
Others [Cosmetology, Plumbing, Upholstery, Bag & Shoe Making, Cleaning Agents, Paint Making, Aluminium Works, Arts & Craft, Laundry, Barbing, Beadmaking]	7%

***“How GEEP made me gainfully employed” - GEEPpreneur OGE.***



**UCHUNU DOMINICA OGE:** Oge Dominica Uchunu hails from Ndokwa West Local Government Area and has HND in Computer Science from the Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-Uku. She is a beneficiary of the Graduate Employment Enhancement Programme (GEEP) and now works with Animal Care Services Consult Nig. LTD, Asaba. She began as an intern. After six months of internship, she was retained by the company and has since been promoted to the position of Senior Officer 1 in ICT Department of the organization.

“I enrolled in the programme four years ago. I applied to Animal Care Konsult, Asaba because they needed a graduate who studied Computer Science to assist them. Indeed, job creation office gave me a letter of recommendation to them as a GEEP candidate. Without any delay, I resumed work as an ICT Support in the company, where I was trained in their mode of operation. The GEEP programme was scheduled to run for six months with a monthly stipend of thirty thousand naira paid into my bank account by the state government.

“During the training, I was expected to abide by the company's rules and regulations of being a good team player. I was trained on some ethics concerning the job; some tasks were given to me to handle which I did, and succeeded in. At the end of the programme, the company absorbed me as one of their staff, based on my performance during the training.

“I am excited to work in such a meaningful and creative environment. From an ICT Support staff, I am now a Senior Officer 1 in ICT in the company.

“I would like to formally thank the Chief Job and Wealth Creation Officer, Prof Eric Eboh, for his efforts at ensuring success of the programme and to Governor Okowa for initiating such an amazing programme called GEEP to help reduce youth unemployment.



slashing, types of chemical herbicides and fungicides, three R's of fertilizer application (right time, right place, right quantity and right type of fertilizer). I learned about general field management such as how to manage the field workers, right time and seasons to carry out some particular operations in the field. I also learnt how to make presentations such as daily, weekly, monthly and annual reports, effective use of computer and Excel sheets for reporting. Others are training on bee-keeping for pollination and the use of the E-prod software for out-grower farmer's data entries. Indeed, it has been an inexhaustible list experience in the business of oil palm plantation and management.

“Two years later, I was promoted to management position in April, 2019 where I was saddled with the responsibility of an Out-grower Manager. Out-grower is an integral department of the company where we reach out to all small holder oil palm farmers as off-taker of their produce by providing ready market for them. We also provide the farmers with quality Tenera seedlings, technical advice and other inputs just to help the farmers grow in their oil palm business. This responsibility as

the Outgrower Manager is quite challenging, but at the same time it has also given me a lifetime experience in agricultural extension service delivery and general management.

“Talking about the benefits and impact of GEEP, it is a life changing programme. My life has changed because I am now a successful consultant in the field of oil palm business. I have been able to register my consultancy business name with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and I comfortably run my consultancy firm side by side without any conflict of interest with my company. I have also acquired a large expanse of land which I am developing into an oil palm plantation. I am confident that I have built a lasting career in the industry.

“In 2018, I got married to my beautiful wife. I want to conclude by saying that there is no better profession than agriculture. I plead with the Smart Governor to expand the scope of GEEP by enrolling more Deltans into the programme.



*How STEP training opened my mind to other possibilities - Igoh.*

**IGOH OGHENEKARO**, hails from Isoko North Local Government Area. She was trained in Fashion and Textile Design under the Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) of the Delta State Government in the 2018/2019 Cycle. She is the outstanding CEO of Kandice Apparel whose story is an inspiration to anyone desirous of success in the face of daunting challenges.

Her shop is a three-bedroom apartment, well-equipped with many sewing machines, each trainee manning hers. I was shocked to know that the smallest in size of all the ladies present owns the shop. I demanded to verify her status through her job creation identity card and her National Identification Card to ascertain her identity. Stating that I was impressed with my findings is an understatement.

The sky is indeed her starting point considering her determination to

succeed where graduates have failed despite her pathetic background and educational level. She is a product of a broken home. Oghenekaro has only the Basic Education Certificate (BECE), but her impeccable diction would make any listener believe she is a university graduate.

Her parents abandoned her, and she could not complete secondary education. She became a photographer to put food on her table. Fortunately, she found favour with God when her pastor enrolled her in a fashion home to acquire skill in fashion designing. To further draw her closer to her destiny, her trainer who incidentally is a job creation trainer enrolled her for further training under BrownSTEP.

The rest is history as in less than one year of establishment, this dynamic youth entrepreneur has a fashion training



institute, has acquired ten manual sewing machines, five electric sewing machines and has over thirty trainees. She has a strong drive for success and has carved a niche for herself. She shares her story, "I had thought I would go into the conventional roadside tailoring, but after the training I received at Songhai Delta, my mind was opened to other possibilities beyond the conventional fashion designing things. I began to think of starting a fashion institute. After establishment with starter pack, I got a shop at City Complex, Asaba and started a school. In less than one year, the shop became too small, and I saw the reason to expand. Therefore, I rented this three-bedroom for N350, 000 annually. I do lots of adverts online.

I currently have two billboards: each of them costs N80, 000 monthly. My students come from within and outside Delta State, and I realise my funding through training fees. I have thirty students currently. Six persons have graduated. I run a morning and afternoon session. I make clothes quite all right, but my niche is training for both male and female who are interested in fashion." Her vision is to become one of the best fashion designers in town and to acquire university education through the National Open University by self-sponsorship. "I advise my students not to look at the things that the Government did not do for us or how our parents have failed us, instead how we use the little we have is what matters.

My driving force is Biblical. Through job creation training, I discovered that God

had given me a talent which I must maximise to receive more from Him," she added. She scored the job creation programme 100%. She said the structure of the programme is such that the system would change anyone willing to learn. The programme taught her discipline, financial management, staff management, customer management and how to create a niche for herself with particular reference to Pastor Afolabi Adun's lecture, "Distinguishing Oneself from Others Makes the Difference." She appreciated the State Government for the opportunity to produce facemasks for the prevention of the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

*"Gov. Okowa made me a manufacturer, CEO of a Company"- STEPpreneur Afakwu.*



**IFEYINWA AFAKWU** is the CEO of Sparkling International Cosmetics located in Asaba. She is a Brown STEP beneficiary in the 2018/2019 Cycle. She obtained an OND in Public Health from



*"GEEP made me a successful Oil Palm consultant, manager" - GEEPpreneur Aniuchi.*

**ANIUCHI IFEANYI ERNEST** is one of the GEEP beneficiaries with IMC Oil Palm Plantations, Nsukwa. He hails from Ndokwa East Local Government Area and is an Agricultural Economics graduate from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He also has a National Diploma Certificate in Agricultural Technology from the then Delta State College of Agriculture, Ozoro. Ifeanyi is currently the Out-grower Manager in the company. He has gained experience over the years through trainings and practical supervision of IMC plantation. He is a seasoned oil palm farmer, oil farm plantation consultant and manager,

married and is concluding a master's degree programme in International Agribusiness and Food Chain Management in Lead City University, Ibadan. He shares his success story:

"In 2016, it was announced that all Deltans who studied Agriculture should submit their details to the newly created Job Creation Bureau. I took advantage of the opportunity and was later invited for an interview in an oil palm estate where I was trained in the oil palm plantation business and employed to work as a Plantation Development Supervisor in IMC Oil Palm Plantations Limited.

"My experience in the oil palm plantation business has been memorable. At first, I was completely naive in that enterprise of agriculture. After a month with the oil palm company, I was trained by different international experts in oil palm namely Solidaridad West Africa and Ghana Sumatra all from Ghana, and also had series of internal training by expatriates in the company.

"Thereafter, my interest in the industry was aroused and I started developing myself on the job. I learned Best Management Practices (BMP) in oil palm production and management. These include modern technologies in planting of oil palm, harvesting, pruning, circle weeding,



***"I diversified into Fish Processing to add value, for greater profitability" - STEPpreneur Emelue***

**CHUKWUMA EMEUE** is the CEO of Enshine Enterprises. He hails from Aniocha North Local Government Area. He has an HND in Environmental Health from the Delta State College of Health Technology, Ufuoma, but was unemployed for seven years till he got



enrolled into the Delta State Government's Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) in the 2017/2018 Cycle. Three years after establishment, he has diversified into fish processing and has acquired a plot of land for his permanent site.

Hear him. "Fish farming has been good and rewarding by the grace of God. After the first cycle, I was able to plough back the proceeds from my starter stock in spite of the challenges of inexperience. For greater profitability and to meet the demands of my clients, I diversified into fish processing to add value to my fish. I acquired an 80kg capacity fish smoking kiln to achieve this.

"At present, I have 13 tarpaulin fish ponds at DARDA and one earthen fish pond at Camp 74 Fish Farm Cluster. I have 4,000 fish in stock because I recently sold off some fish. The demand for cat fish is high. I have acquired a plot of land to be used as my permanent site in future.

"The job creation programme is a laudable project that should be sustained by successive governments."

***"My farm proceeds have helped me care for my wife, children, mother adequately well" - YAGEPpreneur Osokogwu***

**VINCENT OSOKOGWU** has great passion for farming. He hails from Abavo in Ika South Local Government Area. He is the CEO of Fedvins Enterprise and a graduate of Biology Education from the Delta State University, Abraka. Upon graduation in 2010, he took to "okada" riding and farming till he enrolled in Green YAGEP in the 2017/2018 Cycle and was established with a buffer starter pack at DARDA, Ibusa. Three years after, he shares his experience having diversified into Crop Production.

"Currently, I have 15 ponds stocked with 6,000 fish. I have lost count of the number of fish cycles I have completed and I have diversified into cassava and yam farming and oil palm development. I train and a render consultancy services to other farmers.

"The proceeds from my farms have helped me to care for my wife, children and mother adequately well. I have a 150 palm oil stands which are already fruiting on a personal land I acquired from the proceeds from my fish farm. I planted additional 100 palm oil seedlings this year. I also have some brood stocks for hatchery.

"The State Government under Senator Ifeanyi Okowa is getting it right. The start-up, the monitoring and follow-up are superb. YAGEP is 90% successful. The programme should be sustained to give opportunity to youths interested in agriculture to access it."



the School of Health Technology, Ufuoma, but was jobless for five years after graduation. Though she had previous knowledge on how to produce laundry and cleaning agents as well as cosmetics from a company, she could not start a business because of lack of funds.

Ifeyinwa's enrolment in the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) changed her story. Trained in the Production of Cleaning Agents, she has distinguished herself with 16 branded products to her credit and is close to completing certification of her products with NAFDAC barely two years after establishment with starter pack. She is a manufacturer, an employer and a trainer.

Hear her success story, "Help came through the job creation bureau when I couldn't help myself. I was established with a generator, an automated mixer for soap, a double boiler method for cream, a mini mixer for cream, a measuring scale, a set of blender, a heat gum, a sealing machine, an industrial thermometer, an oven for drying of organic products, a mould cutter for cutting bar soap, a big mixing bowl, a mini water drum, three buckets and ₦55,000 for shop rent subsidy and transport fare. I have been able to put them into good use as you can see from my products.

"At present, I have 16 beauty and cleaning agent products branded in my business name in the market. NAFDAC

has given me freedom to start processing my products and I am working hard to meet the required standard. I have acquired more equipment, rented a big place for production and an outlet for sale of my products. I have four trainees and two employees on my payroll.

"Some of the products are in high demand and I have exported to Libya. They have been used widely in Abuja, Akwa Ibom, Lagos, Kaduna and here in Asaba. Thanks to Governor Okowa for making me a manufacturer, a producer and a CEO of a company which I never thought I could become."

***"I love to earn money to contribute to my family upkeep, community development"- STEPpreneur Oreva.***

**OREVA UVOH** was trained in Catering and Confectionery in the 2015/2016 cycle, and now is the CEO of Tonia Reva Fashion Home, Oleh in Isoko South Local Government Area. Oreva has not only diversified into fashion but has also branched out into Decoration and Event Management. The amazing thing about it all is that she is a secondary school graduate who has not been in the four walls of a university classroom. She was a homemaker before her enrolment into STEP in 2015 where she trained and got established in Catering and Confectionery.



Her journey into the world of fashion began when, by intuition, she tried her hands on amending her sister's gown. She carefully amended the oversized gown to a perfect fit. This marked a turnaround in her life as she went ahead to enrol in a fashion home to be trained in Fashion Design and Tailoring. As a fast learner she was good to go after six months of training in female wears. Being an enterprising and focused woman, she employed a male designer who makes male wears for her. She went further to acquire the skill of Decoration and Event

decoration after three years in a rented shop. She has acquired additional seven manual sewing machines, one industrial sewing machine, one industrial weaving machine, and stoning machine among others.

Her driving force is the love for success. "I love to work and earn money to contribute to my family upkeep and community development. I have trained five persons for free; three out of the five have graduated," she remarked. According to her, "I have two children in the university and my support has made life easier for my husband and the children too."

Four persons who trained under her have established their own businesses. She currently has 10 trainees and two employees- a male and a female designer on her payroll. Her fashion business has taken precedence over the catering business. She has 10 contract staff who respond to her

calls whenever she has a catering job. She has also purchased more cooking equipment for her catering business and is already constructing a restaurant.



Management to make her enterprise a one-stop-shop.

She has built a four-room shop on her husband's land, using two shops for fashion, one for catering and one for

Agricultural and Rural development Agency (DARDA), Ibusa.

"I am three years in business and have completed so many production cycles. I have expanded my business; I now have extra 2 earthen ponds at Camp 74, Anwai Fish Cluster. I have increased my stock to 3,000 and have gone into fish processing too. I am also into consultancy, sales and supply of cat fish, pond preparation services and supply of general agricultural products."

*"YAGEP made me gainfully employed, married"- Ekene*

**GOLD EKENE** is our YAGEPreneur for this week. He hails from Ndokwa East Local



Government Area and has an HND in Electrical Engineering from the Federal Polytechnic, Nekede. He got enrolled into the Delta State Government's Youth Agricultural and Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) in the 2017/2018

Cycle after seven years of unemployment.

With his establishment package of 3 stocked tarpaulin fish tanks at the Delta State Agricultural Rural Development Authority (DARDA), he now has 8 tarpaulin tanks at DARDA and 2 earthen fish ponds along Anwai Road. Three years later, not only did he get married with the proceeds from fish farming, he acquired a plot of land for his permanent site. He also practices Electrical Installation and Maintenance, being the skill he acquired in the Polytechnic. He shares his story:

"Though it hasn't been easy, yet it has been rewarding. I can say I am gainfully employed, having got married and being able to provide for my family as a YAGEPreneur. The knowledge I have gained in fish farming is rich. I run two farms in different locations far apart. Therefore, I have acquired a land for my permanent site in order to have my fish farms in one location. In addition, I didn't abandon my skill. I am an Electrical Engineer. I also practice electrical installation and maintenance.

"In my opinion, the Delta State Government is doing excellently well. YAGEP should be sustained because there are lots of youths out there looking for this opportunity."



Ezekiel is a goal-getter, focused and an ambitious entrepreneur. From his initial establishment package, he has grown his business within four years. From the proceeds from his farm, he is fulfilling his dream. He now has an M.Sc. in Agricultural Extension and is currently studying for a Ph.D. in same discipline in DELSU. To crown it all, he is married to a YAGEPpreneur, Ndidi and their union is blessed with children. Hear him:

“Through YAGEP, I have obtained M.Sc. in Agricultural Extension and my Ph.D. is in view as a result of the opportunity and benefits gained from the programme. I decided to dedicate my resources to write a thesis and to research on YAGEP in order to sell the programme across the globe. At present, I own 7,500 fish in five tarpaulin fish tanks measuring 15x20 feet, having relocated from Anwai Fish Farm Cluster to a private land. I also make furniture to augment my income.

“YAGEP turned my life around. Having graduated since 2012, I was unemployed till God used Governor Okowa to change my story to a testimony. I am here to testify because if I am to convert my starter pack to cash, it would have cost me ₦1.5m. When my set suffered from flood after establishment, Governor Okowa re-established us with the same quantity

and quality of starter packs. I now live and pay house rent in Asaba because of YAGEP. I am able to take good care of myself and my family too. Interestingly, YAGEP gave me a wife, a YAGEPpreneur in Crop Production.”

*“I practice consultancy, sales and supply of general agricultural products” - YAGEPpreneur Akpobire*

**NAME:** AKPOBIRE GIDEON (2017/2018)

**LGA:** ISOKO SOUTH

**ENTERPRISE:** FISH PRODUCTION

**Gideon Akpobire** is the CEO of Rithmah-Parez Ventures and has a HND in Mechanical Engineering from the Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-Uku. He was established with 2,000 juveniles, 145



bags of fish feeds of various sizes, 3 tarpaulin fish tanks, 6 months post establishment stipends of N15,000.00 monthly among other facilities in the YAGEP Farm Cluster in Delta State

## STEPpreneur Odimegwu advises youths to acquire skills for self-employment.



**ODIMEGWU PHILIP** is a STEP beneficiary (Fashion Design and Tailoring) in the 2017/2018 Cycle of the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme. He hails from Oko-Mgbele in Oshimili South Local Government Area. He is a promising young entrepreneur who took advantage of the State Government's job creation programme to liberate himself from the labour market.

Philip is a Political Science graduate from the Delta State University, Abraka and the CEO of **Adam Esecutive**, a fashion home that specialises in building wardrobe for clients. His major clients are celebrities, the majority of whom do not know his office location because he uses online platforms to market his business. He can be reached on **instagram: adamezexecutive** and on **Whatsapp: 07061694603**.

He shares his success story. “Job creation bureau laid the foundation I am building on. Since establishment with an industrial sewing machine, an industrial weaving machine, one generator from the government and personal savings of ₦300,000 and two manual sewing machines from friends, I have bought three industrial sewing machines, a button hole machine, a 10KVA sound proof generator of ₦900,000, office furniture and a medium-size generator.”

“I have five employees and eight apprentices. In Adam Esecutive, aka the Ideal Man, we teach men how to dress. My clients do not necessarily need to know where my shop is. I go out in search of them to take their measurements as far as Lagos and deliver to them same way. I meet most of my clients online through the social media. As a fashion designer, I am my own model. I ensure that I am the best dressed person in every ceremony I attend. Most of my clients are celebrities and high-profile Instagram personalities. I have clients in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Uganda, Namibia and Ghana. Despite that, my prices are fair and affordable. I make suits, natives, shirts, trousers, ankara crazy stuff etc. We have developed capacity and we deliver



within two to seven days because we work night and day.”

“My advice is for everyone to acquire a skill for self-employment and for government to upscale the job creation programme to engage more youths in order to save them from crime and internet fraud. I am giving back to society by training two persons for free. I also intend to go back to the Government-owned vocational training centre, Asaba where I was trained and to job creation orientation programmes to mentor the trainees as part of my community service.

***STEPpreneur Oma describes STEP Starter Pack as her life changer.***



**CYNTHIA OMA ERHIRE** is the Chief Executive Officer of Oma Events & Oma Makeover, Sapele where she hails from. She is one of the beneficiaries of the

Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) in the 2015/2016 Cycle. Cynthia Oma stands out among her equals. Her ability to diversify into other affiliated enterprises other than Decoration and Event Management in less than one year of establishment makes her a goal-getter and a pacesetter. She has achieved a lot for herself; she has bought a car for her business and is building a house.

Like so many uninformed youths, she thought the Job Creation Scheme was to follow the pattern of previous empowerment programmes. She saw it as an opportunity to enrol and afterwards sell the starter pack, but all that became history after the Orientation Course at Songhai Delta, Amukpe. “In fact, I entered into the programme with the mind set to take the money and leave the programme. But after the Orientation Course, my thinking changed”, she enthused. This actually underscores the importance and uniqueness of the week-long orientation course. It afforded the trainees the opportunity to be exposed to courses in leadership, managerial abilities, life skills, mind-set change and personal effectiveness.

According to Cynthia, her experience has been awesome. Her decision to stay focused on the programme after the Orientation Course together with the vocational training received from her trainer for three months and her starter pack equipped her to excel in the world

**BAWO ULORI** hails from Warri North Local Government Area. He attended the Delta State University, Abraka where he obtained a BSC in Economics. He enrolled in YAGEP in the 2016/2017 Cycle and was established at YAGEP Fish Farm Cluster at Egbokodo-Itsekiri. Four years after, he has grown his business to an enviable height. He began as a bachelor but he is now married, blessed with a son, has acquired a plot of land which he is already developing. He is a consultant, an employer, a trainer and the CEO of Ulori G8 Global Resort. He shares his experience.

“I have grown my business and I am still doing so. I have 15 fish ponds stocked with 10,000 fish at the moment. I am now a married man and I have a son too. I am building on a 100 X 100 plot of land which I acquired. I live in a completed apartment in that building. All these achievements are possible because of Governor Okowa's YAGEP. I have trained four persons who are now established. I have one trainee and three casual staff.

“Fish farming is very lucrative, but it is what one gives to them that they give back to one. Finance is very important in business. Make quality decisions as an entrepreneur. The mistake of underestimation is very harmful in fish business. Anyone who ventures into it should have 60% capital before investing in it.

“I advise Deltan youths to plan their tomorrow from today so that they will not hold anyone responsible for their tomorrow. There is dignity in labour.”

***“How Gov. Okowa changed my unemployment story to testimony” - YAGEP Beneficiary***

**EROMEDOGENE EZEKIEL (2016/2017 CYCLE)**  
**LGA: ISOKO NORTH**  
**ENTERPRISE: FISH PRODUCTION**

YAGEPpreneur Ezekiel Eromedoghene, the CEO of Ezekiel-Voh Agro Ventures. He enrolled into the Youth Agricultural and Entrepreneurs Programme



(YAGEP) as a graduate of Agricultural Extension and Management from the Delta State University, Abraka (DELSU.)



did he diversify into Piggery and Fish Production, he has also acquired landed property and lives in his own house. He is a consultant, an entrepreneur, a trainer and an employer. He tells his story.

"I was established with 400 point of lay birds, 200 day old broilers, 145 bags of feeds, a poultry pen equipped with battery cages and its accessories right in a private land. I lost 50 of the layer birds immediately after delivery and I was left with 350 which I reared successfully.

"Since establishment, I have achieved a lot and made lots of progress in my life and family. I have consistently stocked layers and sold them off every two years. At some point, I made ₦4,000 daily and at the peak ₦5,000 as profit after expenditure from the sale of eggs till the birds are sold off as old layers.

"I diversified into Piggery and Fish Production to expand my business and to increase my streams of income. Livestock business is lucrative. I sold some piglets and a goat four days ago. I currently have 17 pigs in my piggery and 5,500 fish of various growth stages stocked in two giant size concrete fish tanks and an earthen fish pond.

"I suffered a major setback last year when all my layer birds and broilers were wipe away by bird flu. Nevertheless, I have booked for 150 day old broilers for a start. "I have two staff I pay ₦10,000 monthly and have trained three persons who have established their own farms.

"I am blessed. I am a landlord. I live in my own house, comprising a three-bedroom apartment and two self-contained apartments on a 100 X 100 plot of land I acquired and built out of the proceeds from my livestock business. I also bought one acre of land for the purpose of expansion in future.

"I have gained lots of experience in livestock farming in the past six years. I want to appreciate Governor Ifeanyi Okowa for the initiative of supporting the youths to harness their hidden potentials."

***"Plan your tomorrow from today" - YAGEPreneur Bawo Advises Delta Youths.***



of entrepreneurship. She said, "After the three months training, I was given a starter pack to begin my business. Though it was called starter pack, I call it 'life changer' because immediately I collected the starter pack, my life changed." Cynthia established her enterprise at 73, Akintola Street, Sapele after she received her starter pack. She said her success began when she was contracted by her first client to decorate and manage an event. The client also requested that she (Oma) arranged for a cake designer and a makeover artist for her. Cynthia obliged. After that encounter, she said to herself, 'you can provide all these services. Why not acquire these skills instead of inviting others to provide the services?' "So, I went ahead to learn how to bake cake, pastries and the artistry of makeover. As you can see, I am into cosmetics too. My clients who come for makeover usually seek my advice on the best body cream, cosmetics, facial cream/powder or treatment for their skin types. These questions motivated me to diversify into offering skin therapy services and the sale of cosmetics." The combination of event management, catering, makeover and sale of cosmetics and beauty products boosted her financial base.

For Cynthia, her enterprise is a one-stop-shop! To crown it all, within a period of one year and four months, she bought a car from the proceeds of the business. "I have never seen anything like this before," she

exclaimed. "Job creation opened my eyes to these opportunities- Decoration and Event Management, before I diversified to Catering, Makeover and Skin Therapy." In one of his speeches, the state Governor, Senator Ifeanyi Okowa stated: "We are training you to become successful entrepreneurs who would train and employ other unemployed youths." To give credence to this statement, Cynthia has trained and graduated over 50 apprentices in the past five years. She is fulfilled and happy with what she does to make people's events worthwhile. When asked if she would apply to work as a civil servant if the opportunity presented itself, she retorted, "If I were a civil servant, would I have been able to achieve all these in less than five years? Certainly not! I am a fulfilled entrepreneur and the proud CEO of Oma's Events and Oma Makeover. She called on other unemployed youths to seize the opportunity provided by the State Government through its job and wealth creation programmes to engage in meaningful ventures to turn around their fortunes. "I advise Delta youths to collect the forms and to key into the programmes so that they can be trained on how to become self-employed and independent to contribute their quota to the development of the state", she emphasized.



## STEP training motivated me to look outside human physiology-STEPpreneur Ubani.



**UBANI FRANK** is a STEPpreneur trained under the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) in the 2017/2018 Cycle (Green STEP.) Frank hails from Aniocha North Local Government Area and was trained in Audio-Visual and Photography.

He holds a BSC in Human Physiology but was unemployed for five years. He was in and out of menial jobs till he got enrolled in the job creation programme and that changed his mind-set and motivated him to realise that he could do other things. He is the CEO of C.F.O Media Productions, Asaba; some of their

services include video coverage, media and events, photography, online digital marketing, production of documentaries, drone services among others. His zeal to maximize his entrepreneurial ability propelled him to venture into building-interiors decoration (screed-making, 3D panels, paints and painting, tiling, PoP, wall paper designs, making and fixing of window blinds etc.) In his quest to acquire more knowledge, for professionalism and to meet the expectations of his clients, he went into partnership with a firm for further training.

two fish ponds with 2,000 post fingerlings with sufficient fish feed to grow them to table size (1kg). I was equally given ₦50, 000.00 and placed on monthly stipend of ₦15, 000.00 for six months, which make up the production cycle.

"After harvest, I was able to purchase 100ft x 50ft piece of land in that same fish farm cluster for expansion purposes with five fish ponds dug on it. Presently I have six stocked fish ponds with 6,400 fish. There was a time I had about 10,000 fishes which I sold off. I have four pumping machines and I am able to care for my family and to pay my rent when due. I also got married from the proceeds from my farm.

"I also engage in the following services- brood stock of fish from fingerlings, post-juvenile to table size (1kg); fish processing (smoking and baking); agent service; consultation and organize seminars and workshops within and outside the state.

"Despite the challenges of inadequate funds, I look forward to practising integrated agriculture. In the next 10 years, I want to be among the first 20 successful fish farmers in this country. My candid advice to my fellow STEPpreneurs and YAGEpreneurs is to dream big, be committed, disciplined and be driven to succeed."

*"I have achieved a lot, made lots of progress" - YAGEpreneur Omokiri.*

**MICHAEL EJOVWOKE OMOKIRI** hails from Ughelli North Local Government Area and is the CEO of Myke Reen Agro Enterprise located in Ughelli. He has a BSC.ED from the Delta State University. He enrolled in the Delta State Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) in the 2015/2016 Cycle, and was trained and established to own and run a poultry enterprise.



Despite the challenges associated with poultry business, he has sustained his and distinguished himself from his peers. As an enterprising young man, not only



"I encourage Delta youths to think outside the box within our environment to find needs they can provide and survive on."

*Discipline, commitment are keys to success, YAGEPpreneur Ogbiye advises fellow beneficiaries.*

**OGBIYE AYORUNME SIMON** is the CEO of Omorovie Fish Farm located at YAGEP Fish Farm Cluster at Egbokodo-

Itsekiri in Warri South Local Government Area. He got enrolled in the Delta State Government's Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) in the 2016/2017 Cycle having searched for a well-paid white-

collar job for four years after graduation. As a graduate of Agricultural Extension and Management from the Delta State Polytechnic, Ozoro (2013), he was one of the best Agricultural Science

graduates whose names were compiled from state-owned higher institutions and enrolled in YAGEP in fulfilment of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa's campaign promise.

Three years after establishment, Simon's passion for fish farming remained unwavering. He has grown his business, standing tall among his counterparts. He has diversified into fish processing, stock supplies, and offers consultancy and training services to up-coming fish farmers. He speaks on his journey so far in Fish Production.



"I was suddenly invited for interview by the Delta State Job and Wealth Creation Bureau, Asaba after four years of underemployment. This was the turning

point in my life. After the compulsory completion of a three months internship/training which added another feather to my cap, I was invited to YAGEP Fish Farm Cluster at Egbokodo-Itsekiri for the allotment of

Frank shares his experience, "The trainings I received through job creation programme motivated me to look outside human physiology. It helped me to discover that I have passion for other things. It propelled me to discover the real world of independence and also gave me the vision of becoming an employer of labour. Before the training, I had thought that to be an entrepreneur, one must be a billionaire, but I was taught that I could start small. With the starter pack, which I call, 'the brain factor,' my prospect is great. Without the training, I would have been on the streets, looking for non-existent white-collar jobs. I now give what I have (services) to get what I need (money) and this has added value to my life."

Scoring the job creation programme 85%, he said, "From application to establishment, I experienced total transparency and a well-organized process. The trainings were superb and sufficient for any man, graduate or non-graduate to prosper. Whoever that does not make it through this programme has his own deficiency."

*STEPpreneur Uzoka thanks Gov. Okowa for believing in the youths, STEP Programme.*

The business success story of this enterprising young man, **Paul Chiwete Uzoka**, is one that could trigger off the quest for vocational skills in any

unemployed youth. Paul is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zoks Global Services Limited located at KM 10, Asaba/Benin Expressway, Asaba. Trained in Interlocking in the 2015 Programme Cycle of the State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP), he was able to take advantage of his entrepreneurial ability to diversify into other business ventures as Aluminium Windows, Stainless Rails Design, Door Folding Designs, Real Estate, Granite Supplies, Increte and General Contracts.



Paul hails from Aniocha North and is a graduate of Delta State University, Abraka, where he studied Guidance and Counselling. Within five years of running his enterprise, Paul has made remarkable achievements and owes his business success to the Okowa-led administration.

"I chose Interlocking because I have idea about building services. I do not believe in failure. I saw that through Interlocking, I could make a decent living and take care



of my family. For these reasons, I was focused.” He expressed satisfaction with the starter pack given to him, saying he received a Compacting Machine; a Wheel Barrow; a Spade; 2 Trowels; 100 Mould Design; 15 pieces of 3 inches Kerbs; 20 pieces of 4 inches Kerbs; 2 Mallets; 3 Brushes; a 750 GeePee Water Tank; 2 Hand Gloves; a Start-Up Allowance of ₦97, 0 00.00 and 3 months stipend of ₦10,000.00 per month. Paul was quick to state that he started receiving offers to execute projects while still in training. According to him, “a month into my training, I started having jobs. In fact, we have taken over. I want to thank Governor Ifeanyi Okowa for believing in the youth. If not for him, I would have remained unemployed. I know I will go far. I have lost count of the number of jobs I have done.”

One cannot but describe Paul as a very enterprising young man given the number of business ventures, he engages in. “Apart from Interlocking, I am into Aluminium Windows, Stainless Rails Design, Door Folding Designs, Real Estate, Increte, Granite Supplies and so on,” he remarked. Paul has since bought himself a car out of the proceeds of his business, bought more equipment and tools and got married. “I have expanded to other branches of building services.” In terms of job creation for others, Paul had this to say: “I have ten casual workers and a secretary.” He, however, appealed to the State Government to patronize its beneficiaries, especially those in Interlocking. “STEPpreneurs in

interlocking can interlock some of our feeder roads,” he said. “It is cheaper, more aesthetical and durable.”

To the unemployed youths he had this to say. “When a child does not know the importance of a herbal leaf, he calls it vegetable. Has any government worker made Forbes's list as the richest man? Only business men and women do. They should acquire skills because it is gainful. It might be tough at first, but in the long run, the sky is the starting point.”

“Jobs have been done; many are still coming. I did my wedding last year; I have helped a lot of persons and many would be helped. The STEP training has impacted positively on my life so much; without God and the training, I wonder where I would have been by now. I thank God; I thank our Governor, Senator Ifeanyi Okowa and I thank the job creation bureau,” he concluded.

### *Idogho offers free training to ten youths in appreciation of STEP Programme.*

JOEL IDOGHO hails from Isoko South Local Government Area. He enrolled into the State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) in the 2018/2019 Cycle and was trained in Tiling. Since establishment with starter packs, Joel has made tremendous success and has won to himself a large variety of clients. He

have the capacity to take up to 30,000 juveniles. She has a large poultry pen that has the capacity to take 10,000 birds. At present, she has 2,000 laying birds and 600 table size broilers birds. From the 2,000 laying birds, she harvests 46 crates of eggs daily.

Six years after, her success rate is phenomenal. “I started from a rented plot of land. All proceeds from my fish farm, I ploughed back into poultry and I continued to restock to grow the business. Now, I am self-reliant and greatly contributing to the upkeep of my home. I have also diversified to Crop Production, precisely vegetable farming e.g. cucumber,” she added.

### *“Think outside the box for needs in your environment” YAGEPreneur Okafor*

**JOHN OKAFOR** is the CEO of G.Husb Enterprise located at Ugbolu. He hails from Ika North East Local Government Area. He holds a BSC, MSC and is about to complete his PhD in Economics from the University of Benin. He is a focused and enterprising young man who in spite of being a fulltime student gives time to running an integrated farm enterprise. He practices Poultry, Piggery and Crop Productions. He enrolled in YAGEP as a

brown beneficiary in the 2019/2020 Cycle and received support in Piggery. Beyond doubt, he is a goal-getter, worthy of emulation. His story.

“I received from the State Government ₦440,000.00 for 10 pigs, two soars and eight in-pigs and the sum of ₦200,000.00 for feeding and medication as the approved support package for Brown YAGEPreneurs in Piggery Production.

“Before the support, I had 30 pigs. One year after government's intervention, I now have over 100 pigs in my pen. I sell pigs every two months. I want to maintain the number at 100 being the capacity of my pen and the number I can conveniently feed. With good management, the business can feed itself.



“The intervention fund was a big boost for expansion. It has yielded the desired result and I appreciate our Governor, Senator Ifeanyi Okowa for the initiative. The programme should be sustained to encourage youths in agriculture to expand their farm enterprises. I rate YAGEP 70%.



## YAGEP beneficiary ascribes business success to efforts put into training.

**HELEN MORRISTER:** The testimony of Helen Morrister is another success story of the Delta State Government's Youth Agricultural and Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP). She is the Managing Director of Odhi Technical and Energy Services Fish Farm located in Orokpokpor in Ughelli, but hails from Isoko South Local Government Area. She is a Political Science graduate from the Delta State University, Abraka. Trained and established in Fish Production in the 2015/2016 Cycle, Helen has diversified into Poultry and Crop Production. She is passionate about her farming enterprise and has great drive to succeed in agribusiness.

Her success started right from the training centre. "I took my training serious. I learnt Fish Production, Crop

Production as well as Poultry. I owe my success to the effort I put into my training," she enthused.

As a goal getter, she bought extra 2,000 fingerlings in addition to the 2,000 she was given as starter stock bearing in mind that the 145 bags of feed given by the state government would feed them to table size. It worked for her. At some point, she said she stocked 10,000 fish and continued in that stead till she lost count of the number of cycles she had done.

Her business received a big boost when her husband acquired a five-acre land. With this fortune, she diversified to poultry and increased her fish ponds. She currently has two concrete fishponds and six earthen fishponds that

shares his experience noting that STEP programme has exposed him greatly to many people, increased his patronage, and made him a master of the tiling skill.



"I have little knowledge in Tiling but not too perfect before I was enrolled and trained in the STEP programme. I was trained for a month and two weeks, and I was not recognized in my business. There was no contract; nobody gave me work to do because they felt I was not good at it before the training. So, I decided to put in my best and be focused during the training," he recounted.

He reaffirmed that the training and empowerment by Governor Ifeanyi Okowa gave him the breakthrough he needed in his business. He stated, "I was giving a certificate and starter pack. The certificate was the beginning of breakthrough for me and my business, and since then my story has changed for good as everyone wants me to work for them."

"Today, I can boldly say that after two years of establishment by the state government, I am doing beautifully well, I have acquired some landed property

and have taken my building up to lintel level. I am married with four kids and we can now feed well. I advise all STEP trainees to take the training seriously in other to succeed in their enterprises and to contribute to the development of the state," he enthused.

While appreciating the Governor for keeping to his promise of creating jobs for the youths, he added that he enrolled 10 indigent youths for free training to uphold the governor's vision of building a Stronger Delta and to give back to the state for training and establishing him free of charge.

*"Neither my parents nor I would have been able to afford Starter Pack" STEPreneur Esienakerien.*

**ESIENAKERIEN MERCY OMA** is one of the beneficiaries of the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) enrolled in the 2017/2018 Cycle. She was trained in Catering and Confectionery. Her passion for the skill remains unwavering as evident in the quality of her products and the creativity she introduces into her cakes. Mercy is the CEO of Remsco Cakes, Catering and Events located at 22 Udumovwori Street, Ekpan. Barely three years in business, her customer base has grown tremendously; she is making significant impact in the food business in Warri and its environs. She is a caterer per excellence, a baker and a STEP trainer. To



her, STEP is one of the best things that happened to her. Mercy hails from Uvwie Local Government Area. Her success story:

“Before now, I was unemployed and helpless as a single mother of two with ordinary level. I begged for everything I needed. All long, I had passion for catering services, but did not know how to bring my dream to reality till I met a STEP trainee who enlightened me on how to obtain a form.

“The rest is history as I was posted to a training centre for three months after which I was established with a bumper



industrial gas cooker, pots rolling pin among others. I have expanded my shop and recently became a STEP trainer. Ten persons have trained and graduated under me. Currently, I have 2 STEP trainees and 8 private trainees in Remsco Training Centre.

“I earn enough money that I no longer depend on anyone for the upkeep of myself and my children. I pay my bills. My family now depends on me. The opportunities are endless. I want to use this opportunity to appreciate Dr Okowa for allowing himself to be used by God to help people like me.”

*Four years after, step beneficiary shares amazing testimony of success story - Says Gov. Okowa's Job Creation Programme is so real and well thought out.*

starter pack. I was shocked when I got to Asaba for my starter pack. Neither my parents nor I would have been able to afford it. I worked at home for two months before I rented my first shop and it has been from glory to glory.

“I have acquired more working equipment such as turntable, hand mixer, moulds, deep fryer pans,

**ATANO, OCHUKO KELVIN** has a BSC in Accounting and a PGD in Business Management from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife. He hails from Ughelli North Local Government Area. He got enrolled in the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) in the 2017/2018 Cycle and was trained in Electrical Installation and Repairs. He is the Co-MD/CEO of JK Science & Tech Innovative

only 4 survived. I learnt from that experience, sought knowledge and bought 25 out of which I was able to rear 24 to maturity. Subsequently, I bought 100-day old broilers and the success rate was high and I continued.

“One of the challenges I faced was feed, how to buy feeds for my broilers, to overcome this hurdle, I decided to bring it to my environment by selling poultry feeds. Immediately I did that people were happy, commending me for bringing solution to the problem of going long distances to buy feeds. Gradually, I saw the need to expand to poultry vaccine. Apart from being a poultry farmer, I also sell poultry feeds and vaccine.

“Fortunately, support came my way through the Delta State Government's Brown YAGEP. The job creation bureau came looking for already existing farmers. I was interested and got enrolled. YAGEP officers inspected my structure. Having met their criteria, I was supported with 400-day old broilers and 150 bags of feeds given by instalments to ensure that the feeds do not expire and for effective monitoring of my farm. This support package transformed my business. I was able to bring them up to table size. From the proceeds, I acquire a land of 100 x 50 for six hundred and fifty thousand naira. I continued to stock and restock till date; I have diversified into layer birds too. My target is that by the end of 2021, there should be a structure on the land to enable me to relocate from our residence and a rented incomplete building to a permanent poultry farm where I can increase my stock.”

“Another major challenge I encountered was that I was always at the mercy of market women who would want to buy less than my production cost. This got me thinking. The idea of grilling came, and my husband advised me to engage a caterer to train me on best practises on meat spicing. Thereafter, I bought deep freezers and two giant grilling ovens. I now slaughter and freeze my chicken. I only sell life broilers to market women occasionally. I started grilling and packaging them for sale. I currently supply grilled chicken to some supermarkets. People call to encourage me for adding value to the agricultural value chain. At the South-South Export Enlightenment and Engagement Forum, I met with exporters who promised to expose me on how best to reduce the moisture content of my product to increase the shelf life, improve the packaging and to make it exportable. I am also researching on it on my own.”

“This is where I am. From being someone who did not know where the next meal would come from, I am now an employer of labour, I have two employees, a male and a female. The male takes care of the shop while the female takes cares of the poultry. I appreciate Okowa for the initiative and the job creation bureau for identifying me when I least expected it. Without the support package, I would not have realized my potentials. The YAGEP support package I received from the State Government moved my business from stagnation to growth”.



I was properly trained at Ugbolu for 3 months then empowered with 2,000 fingerlings and 145 bags of fish feeds. It did not end there. I was also paid a monthly stipend throughout the first cycle which was 6 months. The first cycle has given birth to many more successful cycles till date. At present, I have about 9, 000 fish in my ponds and I have designed a model to enable me to stock and sell fish every month without fail.”

“I am now financially independent and have extended same to my two employees who receive their salaries every month which helps them to contribute to their families' upkeep.

One thing about this programme is that fish farming is not a bad venture. Every home needs fish. The market is huge. While a good number of people do not eat meat, almost everyone eats fish including children. Our amiable Governor, Senator (Dr.) Ifeanyi Okowa is on the right track. I really thank him for investing in agriculture thereby lifting so many people out of joblessness while boosting our economy at the same time.

Thank you Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa for this great opportunity. May God continually bless and furnish you with more wisdom to steer this state in the right direction.”

### *“How Brown YAGEP moved me from stagnation to growth”*



**ELEMOKWU JOY** hails from Ika North East Local Government Area and is an Architect by profession. She is the CEO of Divine Cristal Agro-Allied Services located in Asaba. Joy is a Brown YAGEPpreneur, a beneficiary of the Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) of the Delta State Government. She shares her story of how the support package she received through Brown YAGEP grew her business.

“Immediately after I had my second child, a friend of mine advised me to begin a business that would augment my salary as my family was expanding. Then I was working in an Architectural firm, I thought about it and decided to go into poultry. I bought 10 broilers from the market and

Company LTD, a company that deals in all fields of Electrical and Electronics Engineering; known for the production of electronic devices and to offer electrical services. They manufacture



inverters, car trackers, household alarm devices, security devices etc.

Since establishment, Kelvin has recorded immense growth in capacity and patronage which has helped him procure more equipment and take care of his family needs. He is an innovative, inquisitive and a determined entrepreneur with the passion for excellence. He is an employer and a trainer of technicians and IT students from tertiary institutions. He has attended several fairs representing Delta State under Directorate of Science and Technology, received awards and is currently a trainee of the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF). His success story:

“I knew little about electrical works, but had passion to produce electrical devices like 'alarm device'. I had to form an alliance with a partner who studied Electrical and Electronics Engineering who is knowledgeable in computer programming. Along the line, I heard about STEP and because I needed a platform where I could learn more, I immediately took advantage of the opportunity. I needed the training for a complete package, and to develop my interest which is production.

“I have had funny feelings about empowerment programmes, but Governor Okowa's job creation programme is so real and well thought out. One is trained and established on a platter of gold. Whoever does not take full advantage of it is not serious-minded. I identified my dream and followed it. I really appreciate the Government of Delta State.

“We have more than 20 products such as vehicle tracking device that locates and demobilizes a vehicle; portable power alarm device with volume and time controls as features; fire and gas alarm device that sends SMS messages to 2-3 persons; inverter; moving message device and digital clock; automatic voltage selector device; stabilizer; device that can check fuel purity; maximum power point tracker controller among others. Currently, we have two offices. We are working on standardization and awaiting commercialization.



“The services we render include electrical installation, repairs and maintenance of electronics devices such as solar panel, inverters, house wiring etc. We also train technicians and IT students from tertiary institutions.

“I have participated in lots of business fairs like the 2019 Delta State Job Creation Fair, 2020 Enugu Science and Technology Expo, 2020 Abuja Science and Technology Expo, 2021 Abuja Science and Technology Expo etc. In 2019, I won a one million naira grant from the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology under Presidential Standing Committee on Invention and Innovation and was acclaimed to be an upcoming technology company to watch out for. I am currently a trainee of the Tony Elumelu Foundation.”

*“Continue with Job Creation Programmes, Make More Youths Self-Reliant, STEPpreneur Chima Appeals to Okowa.”*

**CHIMA, EMMANUEL OGE** is a Fashion Designer. He hails from Aniocha North Local Government Area and has a BSC in Sociology. He enrolled into the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) in the 2017/2018 Brown STEP Cycle. He was trained in Fashion Design and

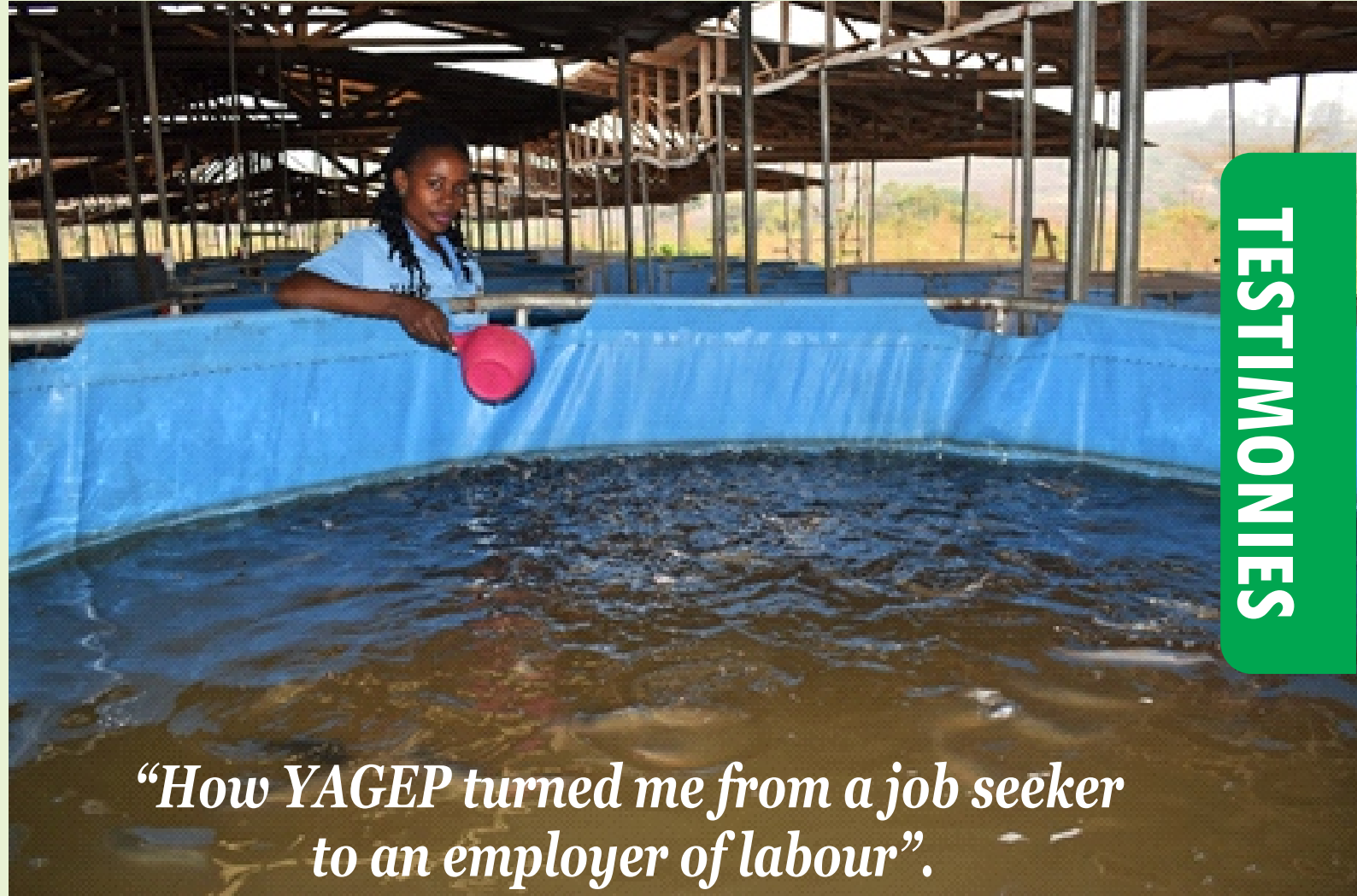
Tailoring. Upon establishment with starter pack, he established a fashion and tailoring outfit using his initials as his business name. Therefore, he is the Creative Director of C.E.O Designs.

Emmanuel is an inspiring young man who is determined to excel in the world of fashion. He specializes in male wears. He is calculative and does his work with so much precision. He is a job creation trainer and an employer. He can be reached through these contacts: 08038097646 and at Shop FFCS City Complex, Asaba. He has lofty ideals about fashion as he shares his



experience after three years of operation.

“I am yet to reach my peak. I have been able to develop my skill in terms of colour combination and textiles. I have a large variety of clients who appreciate and are satisfied with my finishing. So far, I have trained seventeen (17) persons with five of them already established and doing



*“How YAGEP turned me from a job seeker to an employer of labour”.*

**HELEN UDOMA-EBEGBARE** hails from Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State. She has a BSC in Mass Communications from NOUN and is the CEO of Dihelinic Ventures in Asaba, Delta State. Helen is a beneficiary of the 2017/2018 Cycle of the Delta State Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP). She shares her success story of how YAGEP has not only saved her from unemployment but has also made her an employer.

“My life has taken a turn for good after enrolling in the YAGEP intervention program having been jobless for a long time. The program came at the right time, a time when I really needed to be gainfully engaged so as to get some money to help cater for my family”.

“I heard about the YAGEP programme from a friend whom I had gone to visit. At that time, my husband had a farm in the village, and although I never paid attention to what was going on there, I was always fascinated whenever I saw the fish in water. When I heard about the programme, I indicated interest. I immediately visited the Delta State Job and Wealth Creation Bureau the next day.”

“I collected the form free of charge, filled and submitted it and was very lucky to be among those that were selected, trained and empowered. That was how my life turned around for good. Imagine going from being jobless to being the CEO of Dihelinic Ventures where we produce catfish every month.



acquire a plot of land in Abraka for use as her permanent site. She diversified into Fish Feed Production, procuring a pelleting machine and has the vision to become the major fish feed producer in Delta State. She feeds her fish from two months till maturity with self-made fish feed. In 2019, she joined the fifth cohort of the Tony Elumelu Foundation programme (TEF).



#### Her story.

"When I graduated from the University 10 years ago, I never knew I would become an entrepreneur. I had wanted to work either in the State or Federal Civil Service, but remained unemployed till I got enrolled with the YAGEP. I did not know anything about managing a business. All I know and have are because of the training I received. This has had positive impact on my family as my kids attend one of the best schools in Abraka. "It is good news to be part of the Tony Elumelu Foundation

Entrepreneurship Programme. Out of over 216,000 applicants across African countries, I was among the 3,050 selected. No doubt, my training under YAGEP gave me an edge. I am grateful and I believe this is the beginning of my entrepreneurship journey. Going by our current rate, we intend to achieve 85% of fish stocked and make over 200% profit by using natural methods to prevent fish death. We ensure proper feeding of fish and not over feeding them because if the fish is unable to consume the feed, the leftover will pollute the water, and this can lead to death.

With the injection of the \$5,000 funding received from TEF, JJ Enyens Farms Enterprises has two additional tarpaulin fish tanks that can conveniently stock 2,000 fish to maturity and a pelleting machine that can produce 500 kilogrammes of feeds in one hour. The quality of fingerlings and table sized fish produced is my unique selling point. I take time to identify fast growing and disease resistant fingerlings through proper consultation either with a specialist or physical evaluation from several farms before making a pick on the fingerlings."

well. I have five employees on my payroll and currently have three STEP trainees. I have expanded from the small shop I began from to a bigger shop. From two industrial machines, a generator and a cutting table, I now have six additional industrial machines, seven manual machines and a bigger generator.

"As it is now, I can no longer do a government job. I need to employ more persons in order to meet the demand for my products and services.

"I am grateful to Governor Ifeanyi Okowa for believing in the youths and for giving them the opportunity to go into entrepreneurship instead of waiting for non-existent white-collar jobs. I appeal to our governor and successive governments to continue with the job creation programmes so as to make more youths self-reliant."

*"I have no regrets being a fashion designer, says STEP beneficiary".*



**BRADOUYAI KNOWLEDGE FININE** hails from Burutu Local Government Area. He attended Bayelsa State University where he obtained a BSC in Business Administration in 2010. Five years after graduation, he was fortunate to be enrolled into the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) in the 2015/2016 Cycle, the pioneer set. The rest is history as he is now the CEO of Drex Me Apparels, an outfit known for its unique taste for style and class. He designs male wears such as suits, senator wears, agbada, shirts, trousers etc. Bradouyai is enterprising, an employer, a trainer and a hard worker with classic dress sense. Hear him,

"I was jobless for five years, but I never really wanted to collect the STEP form because I felt I won't be selected. You know in Nigeria today, you need to know someone to get anything. To my greatest surprise, I was invited to attend an interview, thereafter to Songhai Delta, Amukpe for one week Orientation and Personal Effectiveness Training.

"From my establishment package of six months training, ₦10,000 stipend for nine months, one manual sewing machine, one industrial weaving machine, an iron, cutting table, a generator and shop rent



subsidy, I have grown my enterprise to acquire four industrial sewing machines and other equipment. Though it wasn't easy initially, yet I kept pushing.

"Six years after, I have six staff on my payroll. I have trained so many people that have passion for fashion who have also established and are doing well. I have expanded my business from a small office space to a larger office to accommodate my equipment. I currently own a show room where I attend to my clients and a factory where my workers work. All my designs bear my label- Drex Me Apparels.

"I am proud to be a fashion designer, being my own boss and making my clients look good. I have no regrets being a fashion designer. I am married to a beautiful woman and we are blessed with a son. I could be reached on Whatsapp @ 08123541624; Instagram @ Drexmeapparels."

*"I plough back my profit to grow my business"*

**BEST OKEH OFEGO** is the CEO of Waplink Global Enterprises, Ozoro. He has a BSc in Sociology from the Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki. He searched fruitlessly for job for eight years after university education. Fortune came his

way when he was successfully admitted into the Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) in the 2016/2017 Cycle. Three years after, he has grown his business into enviable height.

Walking into Zach Photo, its ambience suggests one who has good taste and value for aesthetics as it occupies a three-bedroom apartment, perhaps one of the best in Oleh. It is a full-fledged photo studio. Though he faced challenges at the onset and had to start small in a one room shop through what he received from the State Government and family members, he survived. All that is history now; he is passionate about his line of enterprise. He is a trainer and an employer.

"So far, I have acquired more equipment including three cameras and two large



lightening systems. I cover all kinds of events including weddings, birthdays, graduations, matriculation, film and musical productions among others. I give my clients value for their money.

was not easy with me then. I depended fully on my husband for survival."

"I was watching Smart Delta Programme one day on DBS, when I saw how our Governor, Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa was empowering youths through the Delta State Job and Wealth Creation Bureau, so I decided to visit the office".

"I collected the form free of charge, I filled and submitted and was very lucky to be among those that were selected, trained and empowered. That was how my life turned around for good. I am now addressed as the CEO of BEGEP".

"I was empowered with 2000 fingerlings and 150 bags of fish feeds and a monthly stipend of fifteen thousand naira for nine months. I finished that particular cycle after six months, sold and restocked. I diversified immediately into poultry. At present, I have about 16, 000 fish in my ponds with additional 4 ponds where I stocked 4,000 fish. So, I sell my fish every month. I process and package almost half of my fish. I now export dry fish and also waybill them to different states in Nigeria".

"As for poultry, I stock 150 broilers and rear them for 8 weeks. I put my business first before any other thing because I don't want to lose focus. I am now financially independent and I can now take care of my bills with ease. I now support my husband in the family upkeep; we now eat well. I have two employees who assist me to take care of my farm".

"I want to personally thank Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa for this great opportunity that moved me from grass to grace. God will continue to shower his blessings upon him. He will never lack in the mighty name of Jesus. God bless Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa and God bless Delta State."

*"My vision is to become the major fish feed producer in Delta State" - Enyenakpor.*

**YAGEPreneur Loveth Enyenakpor** is the CEO of JJ Enyens Farms Enterprises located in Abraka in Ethiope East Local Government Area, her origin. She attended Delta State University, Abraka where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Fine and Applied Arts. She was jobless for nine years before her enrolment in the Delta State Government's Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP.) As one of the 2016/2017 Cycle beneficiaries trained and established in Fish Production at Ugbokodo-Okpe YAGEP Fish Farm Cluster, she had upon her first harvest relocated to her family land in Abraka, where she continued in business. She has grown into a reputable farmer with specialty in catfish and fish feed production. She trains her fish to table size before sales.

She has three employees and has trained many interns from the Delta State University, Abraka; and has been able to



Helen is the C.E.O of Cheku Fish Farm located in Asaba. She resigned from a white-collar job in Port Harcourt to be trained in entrepreneurship. Since establishment with starter pack at YAGEP Fish Farm Cluster at the Delta State Rural Development Agency (DARDA) in Ibusa, she singled herself out as a diligent and dedicated *YAGEPpreneur*. Apart from diversifying into Poultry, Crop Production and Fish/Meat Processing, she is an employer, a trainer and a consultant to upcoming farmers.

She speaks on her success. “From three tarpaulin ponds and 2,000 juveniles as my start-up in DARDA, I have expanded to using 10 concrete ponds in a private location in Asaba. At a time, I had a stock of 11,000 fish.

“At present, I have two full time staff. I have trained six persons, four in Fish Production and two in Poultry. Three of them have established their own farms. I have diversified into hatchery, fish/chicken processing, poultry and maize farming. I hatch fish and sell them as fingerlings and juveniles. The highest number I have ever hatched was 14,000. I never knew anything about Fish Production before YAGEP. All I know I learnt through job creation.

“I have 450 birds in my Poultry. I also brood birds for other farmers till the fourth week of vaccine. I am currently brooding 400 birds for two farmers who are new in the Poultry business.”

She appealed to beneficiaries not to sell their starter packs but to put them into judicious use so as to become gainfully employed and to create jobs for other youths, thanking Governor Ifeanyi Okowa for the job creation initiative.”

***YAGEPpreneur Evah shares story of how YAGEP raised her from grass to grace.***

**EVAH HELEN** hails from Obiaruku in Ukwuani LGA. She has a BSC in Aquaculture and Fishery and is the CEO of BEGEP Aquaculture in Asaba. Helen is a beneficiary of the 2018/2019 Cycle of



the Delta State Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP). She shares her success story of how YAGEP moved her out of stagnation, and raised her from grass to grace.

“My life has changed for good after being jobless for 8 years after graduation. I was struggling to survive without a job and at the same time struggling to cater for my children. Life

“The business is lucrative. I am still building my business into what I want it to be. I plough back my profit to grow the business. I have trained three persons and I have three employees.

I thank Governor Ifeanyi Okowa for the STEP initiative. I would have been in the labour market seeking for non-existent white-collar jobs. I feel good being my own boss,” he added.

***Work Hard to Achieve a Bright Future, STEPpreneur Okocha Advises STEP/YAGEP Beneficiaries.***

**JENNIFER CHINASIA OKWU OKOCHA (2016/2017 STEP CYCLE).** Trained in Audio-Visual Services. She hails from Aniocha South. She is the CEO of JennyChi Studios, Asaba. Jennifer attended Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-Uku where she obtained an HND in

Business Administration. Despite being in a male dominated vocation, she stands tall in affirmation of the saying that what a man can do, a woman can do better as she makes waves in videography, video editing, photography and set designs.

She has trained one person and has clients both in the private and public sector.





To increase her income, she has diversified into hairdressing, her first love, a skill she acquired from her mother who is a hairdresser. She has bought all necessary equipment for her salon. Currently, she manages two businesses, Audio-Visual Services and Hairdressing.

Hear her, “Still in business is my first achievement. Secondly, I can boost of taking care of my needs and those of my parents.” Ever since I got enrolled in STEP, my life has completely changed. Before now, my prayer was to get a good business that would sustain me and I thank God for his Excellency whom God used to wipe away my tears. Today, I can boost that I am not a liability to my parents. I am a skilled and productive youth. I do not only own a video/photo studio, but I am a professional hair stylist.

“After establishment by the State Government, I needed to diversify to hairdressing business, being one I can run in addition to Audio-Visual Services. When I am not in my office for my hair dressing business, I am in the field for videography and

other engagements. I thank God I am able to maintain the two businesses without complain and regret till date. I was able to save money to purchase new equipment for both my salon and studio.

“I have trained persons that have graduated and a trainee for videography who has completed the training and has gone back to school to make a living from videography. I know the best in me is yet to come because I will eventually get to the top and I can never forget where I started from.

“I encourage my fellow beneficiaries to keep working hard to achieve a bright future. We need to make hay while the sun shines. I appreciate His Excellency, the youth governor. His goodwill and legacies shall last forever. I thank the team at job creation bureau too for engaging quality trainers to train us and to the team at youth monitoring and mentoring for always checking on us.

“Currently, I have 13 ponds and had a stock of 33,000 fish some months back. I process fish to add value, to control price and to prevent wastages. In addition, I grow some brooder stock for fish hatchery. The highest number of fish hatched was 36,000 fries. I have quality fingerlings and juveniles for sale. I offtake birds from poultry farmers and package for sale. In December, 2016, I acquired a plot of land measuring 300 feet by 320 feet for expansion from the proceeds of my fish farm. To crown it all, I started as a single man, now I am a married man with two male children.

“It is not enough to begin a business, but knowing the intricacies involved in such a business. Basically, I plough back my profit. By ploughing back my profit, I have been able to grow my business. I have faced lots of challenges, yet I continue to push on.

“Apart from producing fresh cat fish, I have 7 additional products such as smoked fish, crayfish, blended catfish, chicken, snail, fish fillets and fish oil. I have an outlet, “Fish House,” for the sale of my products located along Ibusa Road, adjacent Kwale Park, Asaba. I also can be contacted at 07034550022; [facebook.com/chiwinkxfarms/](https://facebook.com/chiwinkxfarms/); <https://wa.me/message/KYTGMNXJIVQLA1>; [instagram.com/chiwinkxfarms/](https://instagram.com/chiwinkxfarms/)

“I have offered free training to 60 persons including corps members and trained over 40 persons for a fee. I have 6 employees on my payroll and 3 casual

staff. I am a farm consultant to 7 agencies. I have helped to establish fish farms for 13 clients and the reward has been very attractive. I have attended 16 training programmes and seminars in the past six years.

“I no longer need a government job. I advise youth entrepreneurs to possess the willingness to grow gradually, stay focused and consistent. With creativity and innovation, they will soar higher and higher.

*Do not sell your Starter Packs, Agboje advises job creation beneficiaries.*

**AGBOJE, HELEN** hails from Ika North East Local Government Area. She attended Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe-Oghara where she obtained an HND in Accounting. She enrolled into the Delta



State Government's Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) in the 2017/2018 Cycle and was trained in Fish Production.



*“Be willing to grow gradually, stay consistent, innovative” - YAGEPreneur Chiweike*

**CHIWEIKE NWANKWO** hails from Oshimili North Local Government Area. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Technical and Vocational Education from the Delta State University, Abraka; enrolled into the Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme of the Delta State Government in the 2015/2016 Cycle, the pioneer set and was trained in Fish



Production. Six years after establishment, he has distinguished himself by growing his enterprise beyond expectation.

He is the CEO of Chiwinkx Farms, Asaba; the Head of Trainers, Chiwinkxfarms Beyond Fish Academy; the Guest Speaker, United Nations Migration Project 2021; a Guest Panellist, Niger Delta Beyond Oil Summit and the State Consultant, NIRSAL Strategic Business Support Services Project 2021 and an employer.

With a wide range of clients all over the country and overseas, he is developing the agricultural value chain by processing fish, snail and meat. He has acquired a vast expanse of land to be used as his permanent site. Much more, he got married about four years ago and is blessed with two lovely children. No doubt, Chiweike can be described as one of the Delta State Job and Wealth Creation Bureau star ambassadors.

He shares his success story, “I graduated in 2010 but was unemployed till I was given hope by the Delta State Government through the Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP).

“After the training which lasted for three months, I was given a starter pack with the following components- 3 concrete ponds at Delta State Agricultural Rural Development Agency (DARDA) at Ibusa, 2,000 fingerlings, 145 bags of fish feeds and a monthly stipend of #10,000 for 3 months. I also received a smoking kiln from the state government.



*“Gov. Okowa made me self-employed, job creator”- STEPreneur Eddy.*

**ENDDY SUNNY-UDJOR** is a graduate of Mass Communication from Delta State University, Abraka and the CEO of NIOC Studios (A Subsidiary of Eddyvisuals Ltd) with 10 employees on her payroll. She hails from Okpe Local Government Area. Eddy is passionate about filmmaking, entertainment and public enlightenment through her documentaries which focus mainly on comparing the African culture with other parts of the world. She is also the publisher of #Wadoo Magazine! She is a presenter, a director and a producer.

Eddy's success story started after eight years of unemployment before she got the opportunity to be trained in the STEP programme in the 2016/2017 cycle in Audio-Visual Services. She has since taken

her business beyond photography to product branding, photo books production, framing, photo/video editing, documentary production, magazine publishing and event coverage. She has also transformed into an OAP (On Air Personality).

She has trained so many persons, some for free as part of her contribution to the society. She has also acquired more film making gadgets and equipment, making her photography and cinematography business easier.

Hear her, “NIOC Studios handled some of the projects that supported the second term electoral campaign of Governor Okowa such as "Okpe Beneficiaries of STEP/YAGEP, iTestify and a short commentary on the contributions of the Governor to the development of the people of Delta State, particularly the Okpe people. Thank God it was a success. I also covered Governor Okowa's Town Hall



Meeting with the youths and elders of Okpe people in Orerokpe, and the Walk with Role Model/Community Service organized by the Directorate for Youth Monitoring and Mentoring (DYMM) for STEP/YAGEP beneficiaries in Uvwie.”

Continuing, she said” “I see myself having a full academy that will partner with the State Government and higher institutions to get more youths off the streets and to train them in Cinematography and Photography. This will be the first of its kind in Okpe. This is my calling and Gov. Okowa has made my dream to come true. He did not only make me self-employed, most importantly, he made me a job creator.”

### ***STEPreneur Akpotor advises unemployed Delta youths to acquire skills for self-employment.***

**SOPHIA AKPOTOR OBRUCHE** hails from Ethiope East Local Government Area. She was unemployed for two years after graduation from Delta State University where she studied Management Studies. Fortunately, she enrolled in the Delta State job creation programme 2015/2016 Cycle and was trained in Cosmetology under Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP.)

The need to diversify her enterprise to increase her streams of income motivated her to acquire another skill in Hairdressing, Braiding and Makeover. At present, she is the CEO of Sofina STEP Salon & Spa located

in Asaba. She has trained over 50 persons and is a job creation trainer. Six years on, she shares her story:

“I enjoy what I am doing in terms of facials and massage because I love beauty. When I started, I rented a shop but the patronage was low. Nobody was interested in beauty therapy then for lack of knowledge. I realized I needed to diversify into hair dressing in order to attract clients. The first woman who patronized me had her hair made for free to convince her that I was good.

“As we speak, I have trained over 50 persons and have clients all over Asaba. I have diversified to sales of beauty products and jewelry and, also, to the production of Sofina Beauty Products. I make wigs too. I



am making great impact in my family by assisting my husband in the upkeep of my home.

“I also engage in free community service. I have trained some women in my church to enable them to contribute to the upkeep of their families. I advise every unemployed Delta Youth to acquire a skill to be self-employed. They should strive to become CEOs of their own enterprises. No one is too big to acquire a skill. This is the reality; all my apprentices are graduates. God bless Governor Okowa; God bless Delta State.



### ***“I hope to have my major products dominate Africa markets in the next five years” - STEP Beneficiary***

**ILOBA, STEPHEN ONYEKA** is one of the pioneer beneficiaries of the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) in the 2015/2016 Cycle. He hails from Aniocha North Local Government Area and studied at the Institute of Management Technology, Enugu where he obtained an HND in Marketing.

After four years of fruitless search for a white-collar job, fate smiled at him through the state government's STEP. He was trained and established with starter packs which marked his journey into the world of entrepreneurship and fashion. Currently, he is the CEO of Stephen Africa, an employer and a job creation trainer.

Six years after, Iloba shares his experience of how he has expanded his business, branded his products, began to raise a family, bought a car, acquired a land and grown his enterprise from

being just self-employed to training others and becoming an employer of others.

Hear him, “Everything has been good. I had prior knowledge of fashion before I enrolled in the programme. Since establishment, I have expanded from having 2 machines to having fourteen machines, including 4 industrial ones. The patronage is above average. I make both male and female wears as English shirts and trousers, suits, senator suits, native wears, bridals etc. I have trained and graduated over 35 persons out of which 5 were STEP trainees. I have 10 employees. Among his employees is his wife whom he met during his days of training at Signature Secret.”

Having expanded his business to Aba in Abia State, 6 of his employees are stationed in Aba. According to him, he controls and manages his business by travelling to Aba every other week, that is, one week in Asaba and the next one in Aba. He hopes to have his major products dominate Africa markets in the next five years. His products are branded Stephen African with an embroidery of Nigerian flag. He is expanding so fast and has been able to organise an international event on fashion.





***"I never dreamt I could own, manage own business" - STEPreneur Awikpen***

**NAME: AWIKPEN ITOHAN EUNICE**  
(2018/2019 CYCLE-BROWN STEP)

**LGA: ETHIOPE WEST**

**ENTERPRISE: HAIRDRESSING,  
MAKEOVER AND BRAIDING**

**Eunice Itohan Awikpen** holds a B.Sc. in Business Education from the Delta State University, Abraka and is the CEO of Eunice-Tee Beauty Villa, Asaba. She is a beautician, a hair-stylist and a trainer. She was jobless for three years till she enrolled in the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP.) Though three years in business, Eunice-Tee Beauty Villa is everything any beauty-conscious lady would desire in a beauty salon.

She furnished her shop tastefully and stocked it full with beauty products. Her enthusiasm at her job speaks volume as

evidence of a rewarding career and satisfaction in the choice she made. She speaks on job creation programme.

"The programme has been helpful, and I acquired lots of knowledge during the OPET, EBMT and from my trainer. The training and the establishment with starter pack equipped me for the life of entrepreneurship. I am adhering strictly to tips on how to manage my business, market my products, retain my clients, and record-keeping.

I never dreamt I could own, manage my own business, expand it, buy more equipment and train others. I have trained fifteen people; four have established. Governor Okowa, through the job creation Office, made it possible. Kudos to Governor Ifeanyi Okowa, Prof. Eric Eboh and his wonderful team."

## ***STEPreneur Enonuya lauds Gov. Okowa for curbing youth unemployment through entrepreneurship development.***

**ENONU YA HENRY (2015/2016 STEP CYCLE)**

**LGA: WARRI NORTH**

**ENTERPRISE: FASHION DESIGN & TAILORING.**

Henry Enonuya tells the story of how Governor Ifeanyi Okowa's led-government has transformed his life through the Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP). Henry is the CEO of Gizzo Clothings located in Asaba. He is six years in business. He can be reached at 07031919368, Instagram @Gizzo.standard and Facebook @Gizzoclothing.

In line with his course of study, Fine & Applied Arts, at the Delta State University, Abraka, Henry carved a cliché for himself in the fashion world by diversifying from the conventional men and female wears to designing of customized shirts, t-shirts, face caps, native wears etc. He has procured more equipment, attended several exhibitions and is married to a STEPreneur in Hairdressing and Makeover.

Hear him, "My line of business has been that of innovation, creativity and diversification. I went into production of customized wears because they are

trendy and more lucrative. I sell most of my products online. I have acquired state of the art equipment for branding and an industrial pressing iron for printing designs on fabrics among other equipment. I am working hard to acquire more.



"I have 3 employees and have trained 7 persons who have established their businesses outside Delta State. I am married now. It was challenging at first, but the passion for what I do kept me focused. The beauty of it all is that I am still in business and doing great.

"I have gone for several exhibitions. I score Governor Ifeanyi Okowa 80% for his job creation initiative through entrepreneurship development and for his commitment to curbing unemployment among youths."



## Embrace Entrepreneurship, Vocational Skills, STEPreneur Eterigho Advises Delta Youths

**ETERIGHO ONANEFE JOSHUA**  
(2015/2016 CYCLE)  
LGA: ISOKO SOUTH  
ENTERPRISE: BARBING

Joshua Onanefe Eterigho, the CEO of Adept Spring Unisex Salon, Azagba Ogwashi. He has an HND in Graphic Design from Ogwashi-Uku Polytechnic. He was trained in Barbing in the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) and has long diversified into Hairdressing and Makeover. He owns a flourishing unisex salon at Azagba-Ogwashi. He is an employer, a trainer and a resource person at the Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-Uku, where he was appointed a Resource Person for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (EED) 216, ND II in the Department of Civil Engineering. Hear him.

"My passion for Hairdressing led me into this. I diversified into barbing after my OND. My greatest achievement is the ability to build a team, who represent me anytime, anywhere. I have trained more than 10 persons and I have two employees. I acquired a plot of land and was able to sponsor myself back to school for HND in Graphic



Designs. Gradually, I shall go into full-time commercial graphic designing too. "My family and dependants now have better livelihood. I also trained my younger brother to be very skilled in Hairdressing and Makeover. Delta youths should develop the passion to embrace entrepreneurship and vocational skills. Skills give independence and the opportunity of being one's own boss.

"I thank Governor Okowa for giving me the platform through which I was recognised for an appointment in Ogwashi-Uku Poly."



*"How STEP Transformed Me from a Full time Homemaker to an Employer" - STEPpreneur Okeh*

**GRACE OKEH**, a beneficiary of the Delta State Government's Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Training (Green STEP) in the 2017/2018 Cycle, hails from Okpe Local Government Area. She has an OND in Secretariat Administration from the Benson Idahosa University, Okada. She is the CEO of Gracie Delux Fashion Home located in Asaba. Though only three years in business, she has grown her business to an enviable level far beyond her contemporaries. Gracie Delux Fashion specialises in female, male and baby wears.

From being a fulltime homemaker, she is now a business owner, a trainer and an employer of labour. She is doing great and making positive impact in her family. She has diversified into sale of fabrics and tailoring accessories. She also retails water and soft drinks. Hear her.

"To strengthen my proficiency, I had to engage a different fashion trainer other than the job creation trainer I was posted to. I was well established with my Starter Pack and support from my husband.

"Because the demand for male wears is high, I employed male and female designers. In addition, I have bought a weaving machine, three manual machines, a cover button machine and a double-door fridge. I also sell fabrics, tailoring accessories, beverages and water. I have trained three persons who are doing well too.

"From being a fulltime homemaker, I am now an entrepreneur and an employer. It has been fulfilling and rewarding. I now contribute meaningfully to the upkeep of my home."