agroriches

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CONTINENTAL DIGEST

Food inflation in Nigeria rises to over 24%

TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS

Autonomous Laser Weeding Robot

NOTRE CHRONIQUE

Le Maroc gratifie d'autres pays africains de fertilisants

GLOBAL TRADE, EXPORT DEVELOPMENT

MARCH 2023

TIAST Group, originating from China has been in existence for over 30 years and has extended its services to West Africa with the sole purpose of adding value to the agriculture value chain and promoting the worth of the agricultural industry in Ghana. Through localization and standardization, we are devoted to adding value to the agricultural chain and boosting the agriculture industry's worth in all African countries. Our business scope includes designing, manufacturing, installation and maintenance of agricultural processing machinery. These machines are designed to process a variety of agricultural goods, including tubers like cassava and sweet potato, etc. rubber processing, fibre extraction and processing from sisal and pineapple leaf, and agricultural machinery for planting, harvesting, and other tasks. We also provide financial leasing for our agricultural processing factories through our partnership with Banks which supports up to 70-80% of the total cost of the entire project. This lease is spread out in a 5-year term of payment which is convenient after the project starts running.

TIAST Group ensures offtake services of all processed goods to the international market at competitive international market prices. This solves the problem of the unavailability of a ready market and promotes ready sales at the best rate. We have also secured a huge international market demand for most of the products that will be processed for ready export. These products will command competitive prices on the world market and will subsequently gain considerable market traction. TIAST facilitates the training of local employees and personnel on how to operate and maintain these machines through its localization scheme. We have technical staff on hand who are willing to train locals to operate these processing units. We are justifiably proud to be the market leaders in the agricultural industrialization space in Ghana and the sub-region. We are also proud of our footprint in Ghana and the impact we are making in the agricultural space. This life-changing opportunity is provided by TIAST Group for everyone interested in boosting agricultural value and promoting the value chain.

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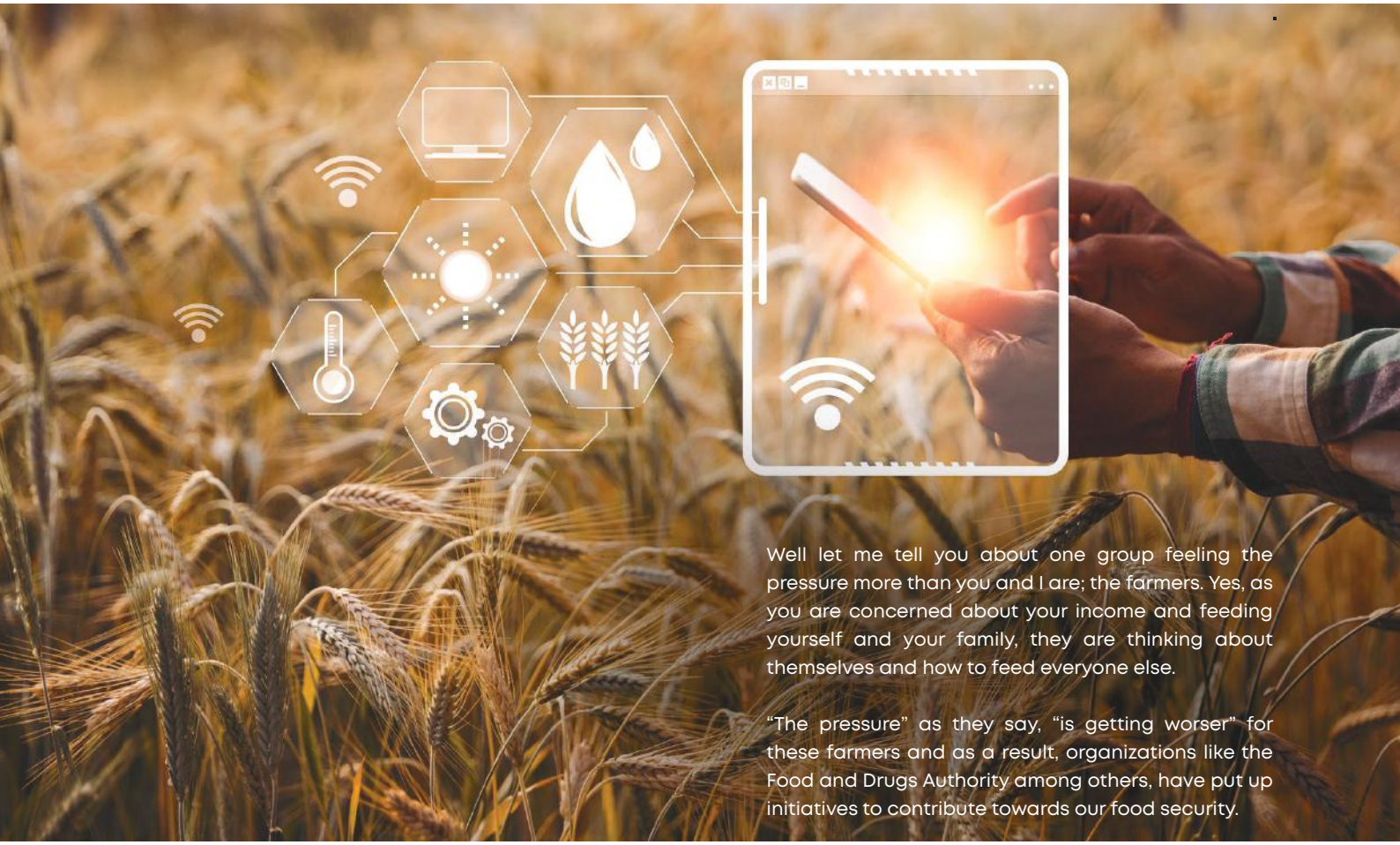
Our agricultural industrialization agenda is aimed at partnering with farmers and interested parties to add value to the agricultural value chain.

Kindly scan the QR code to read more on our website.

CONTENTS



Well let me tell you about one group feeling the pressure more than you and I are; the farmers. Yes, as you are concerned about your income and feeding yourself and your family, they are thinking about themselves and how to feed everyone else.

"The pressure" as they say, "is getting worser" for these farmers and as a result, organizations like the Food and Drugs Authority among others, have put up initiatives to contribute towards our food security.

9 Billion Mouths To Feed, Tech To The Rescue.

The world has been faced with the shocking news that its population is estimated to reach 9 billion by the year 2050. Yes, 9 billion! The world's population currently stands at 8 billion and we as inhabitants are already feeling the struggles and competition for scarce resources among other difficulties.

Now let's take a moment to think about the 1 billion addition to come in 2050, 1 billion extra people to share the same limited resources and same space, feeling the pressure yet?

Many countries are educating their farmers and citizens to adopt sustainable farming and practices to help sustain the world's resources. Among these initiatives, is technology. The emergence of technology has made work easier and faster and has contributed massively to our development and how we do things.

Thus, introducing technology into agriculture will really improve productivity. This introduction has birth what is known as smart-farming, which involves the use of artificial intelligence and monitored sensors to analyze and map out farms, collect data and make an automatic pattern to increase efficiency.

Robots are now able to grow food and is being utilized in the advanced countries.
In Ghana, Artificial Intelligence adaptation is rapidly gaining grounds despite being on a small scale. Some non-profit organizations are investing in the smart-farming to strengthen our agricultural sector and to make it profitable.

Some agricultural technologies being used on farms in Ghana now include; intelligent spraying, automatic weeding, soil monitoring and aerial surveys.

Gooseberries

By Chelsea Nkuah

Gooseberries are small, tart berries that are native to Europe and Asia, but are now grown in many parts of the world, including North America. These small, translucent berries are often used in jams, jellies, pies, and other desserts. They are also eaten raw, often sprinkled with a little sugar to balance their tartness.

Gooseberries come in a variety of colors, including green, yellow, red, and purple. The green and yellow varieties tend to be more tart, while the red and purple varieties are slightly sweeter. They are available in both fresh and canned forms, although fresh gooseberries are harder to come by in some areas.

In addition to their use in desserts, gooseberries have a number of health benefits. They are high in vitamin C, fiber, and antioxidants, which can help boost the immune system and protect the body against disease. Some studies have also shown that gooseberries may have anti-inflammatory properties, which could make them beneficial for people with conditions such as arthritis.

When selecting fresh gooseberries, look for berries that are plump and firm, with a slightly fuzzy exterior. They should be free of bruises and blemishes. Gooseberries can be stored in the refrigerator for up to a week, but they are best when eaten fresh.

If you're not sure how to use gooseberries in your cooking, try making a simple gooseberry sauce by simmering the berries with a little sugar and water until they are soft and pulpy. This sauce can be used as a topping for ice cream, pancakes, or waffles. Gooseberries also make a delicious addition to fruit salads or mixed berry pies.

Overall, gooseberries are a versatile and nutritious fruit that can be used in a variety of dishes. Whether you prefer them raw or cooked, they are a great addition to any diet.

USAID announces grant window to finance agriculture in Northern Ghana

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

The United States Government has announced its $500,000 Innovative Finance Grant Window to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in northern Ghana through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The grant program, which is a component of the Feed the Future Ghana Market Systems and Resilience (MSR) Activity, targets financial institutions and other non-bank financial institutions to leverage private lender capital to support improved access to finance, input supply, and business development services that support agriculture-led economic growth.

This was made known at a public roadshow in Accra by Mr Raymond Denteh, the Agribusiness and Financial Services team leader of the MSR.

"The Innovative Finance Grant Window targets three main categories namely, Financial Institutions including commercial banks, micro-finance institutions, rural banks, and non-bank financial institutions including impact investors, financial technology companies, as well as agric service providers including input and business development service providers," he said.

He went on to say that the grants were intended to lower the cost of agricultural lending, increase the liquidity of financial service providers, and motivate more agricultural service providers to provide targeted financial services to SMEs in USAID's 17-district zone of influence within Ghana's four northern regions.

The Deputy Chief of Party for the programme, Mr Cecil Osei, stated, "It will provide incentive payments to FSPs that increase access to finance for Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and increase uptake of inputs to intensify agricultural production in northern Ghana."

Food inflation in Nigeria rises to over 24%

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said food inflation rose to 24.45 percent in March 2023 from 24.35 percent in February 2023.

According to news sources, the cost of food items such rice, beans, bread, yams, vegetables, fruits, and eggs has increased by at least 100% in the last ten years, demonstrating the rising rate of food inflation.

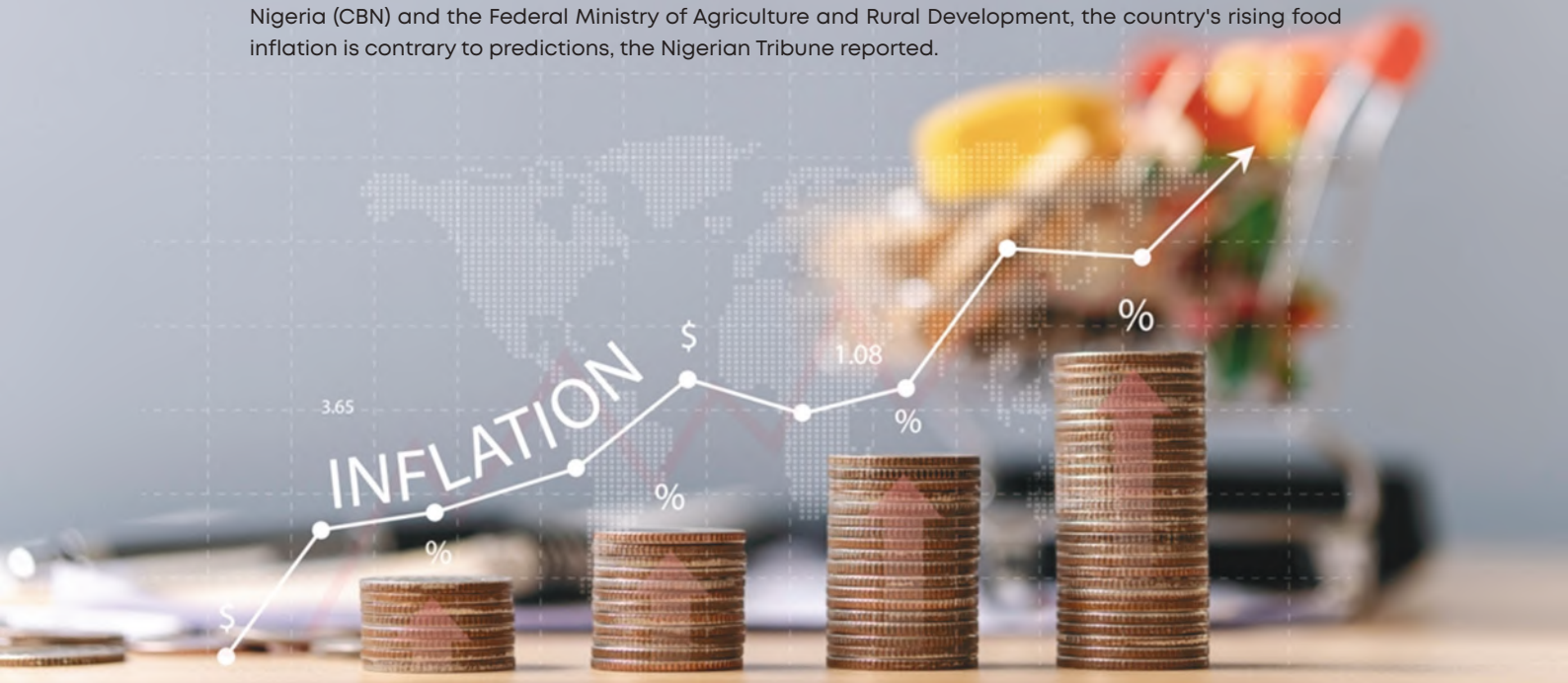
In a quarterly report published in March 2023 by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), it was stated that unless immediate action is taken, approximately 25 million Nigerians face the risk of becoming hungry between June and August of this year. According to the international body, the main causes of the trend include escalating violence, climatic change, inflation, and rising food prices.

Many Nigerians are now living in poverty as a result of the rising food inflation because these items are becoming increasingly expensive for the average Nigerian.

"Of the 17 million people who are currently food insecure, 3 million are in the north-east Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states. Without immediate action this figure is expected to increase to 4.4 million in the lean season.

"This includes highly vulnerable displaced populations and returnees who are already struggling to survive a large-scale humanitarian crisis in which 8.3 million people need assistance," FAO said.

Given the interventions made in agriculture by the Federal Government through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the country's rising food inflation is contrary to predictions, the Nigerian Tribune reported.



Entomology Professor to spearhead research to enhance Agricultural productivity

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

A professor of entomology at Purdue University, Christian Krupke has been appointed the Dean's Fellow for Resilient Agriculture to spearhead research efforts targeted at enhancing the productivity and resilience of agriculture.

Krupke will be in charge of a multi-year project that brings together research faculty from many fields within the College of Agriculture.

They seek to do two things: first, to carry out long-term research that aids farmers in making decisions based on accurate, field-scale data; and second, to present techniques that increase the resilience of the overall agricultural system.

“There’s an incredible amount of federal and private industry funding going into this broad field, but some of the practices either are not being tested in a rigorous and systematic way, or the results are not being clearly communicated to growers,” Krupke said.

“This is an area where Purdue research and extension can have influence,” he added.

“Dr. Krupke’s research and extension programs in pest management of corn and soybeans over nearly 20 years make him an ideal person to lead this effort,” said Karen Plaut, executive vice president for research and former dean of the College of Agriculture.

In order to make sure that the strategies chosen are practical and workable for a variety of practitioners, Krupke is currently looking for feedback from growers, commodities organizations, conservation groups, and industry representatives.

Agrivoltaic Farming, Growing Plants Under Solar Panels

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

Research has it that the population is estimated to reach 9.8 billion by the year 2050, and with the persistent climate change issues and depleting resources, the world is tasked with finding options to ensure food security and to curb or control any food crisis that may arise.

In this quest many agricultural organizations, scientists and other actors have come up with new ways to increase food production while sustaining the environment and resources, and one of such ways is Agrivoltaic farming.

Agrivoltaic farming system involves the integration of solar PV with agricultural produce. This means crops are made to grow beneath solar panels. This farming concept was proposed in the 1980s but did not gain grounds until the beginning of the new millennium.

The approach was derived from intercropping where two or more crops are grown on the same piece of land and scientific studies have shown that some crops thrive this way. Researchers in South Korea who have been growing broccoli through agrivoltaic farming observed that, there was no significant change in the taste and the quality was not any lower than the ones grown traditionally.

Other Researchers from the University of Chonnam National University also discovered that the broccoli produced through agrivoltaic farming had a deeper shade of green which made it more appealing to customers. The panels were positioned 2-3 metres off the ground and it sat at a 30-degrees-angle, providing shade, offering crop protection from the weather and helping to retain moisture in the soil.

Agrivoltaic farming offers a solution to climate change issues since it protects crops from being affected by the weather and also promotes sustainable farming through the efficient use of land. In Kenya, farmers are able to grow a greater range of higher-value crops as plants are being protected from heat and water loss without competing with solar farms but rather sharing a common ground to boost productivity.

Also, lands which were previously not considered as viable in Kenya was now supporting crop life.

To allow plants grow beneath them, Solar panels have to sometimes be elevated, suspended put on roofs of greenhouses. This allows enough light and rainwater to reach the crops, as well as providing access for farm machinery.

Adding Agrivoltaic farming to green housing will boost productivity further and help the Food and Agriculture Organization's fight on food security. In Ghana, plans like project 9-117 by Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER), is underway to start the installation of PV solar panels in the country.

The Autonomous Laser Weeding Robot by Carbon Robotics, is a great innovation in the history of agriculture robotics and unlike any other in its league as it kills 100, 000 weeds per hour.

The weeding robot, is called "autonomous" because it uses lasers, GPS and lighter sensors to drive through and navigate farms automatically without any human control. It is also able to turn around and move in between rows independently and uses thermal energy to eradicate weeds rather than any physical intervention like tilling which disturbs the soil.

Autonomous Laser Weeding Robot

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

This technique reduces the use of pesticides and weedicides, saving the farmer money and ensuring healthier crops. The autonomous laser weeding robot can move around a plot five miles per hour, and has 12 high-resolution cameras which continuously scans the ground as it moves. It also has an in-built super-computer which uses machine-learning to identify the number of plants on a farm in milli-seconds.

It uses the computer's vision to detect and destroy the weeds by shooting its lasers at them. The rays of the Autonomous Laser Weeding Robot can destroy 28 weeds per second and weed about 15-20 acres per day in any weather condition.

This weeding Robot is not only efficient, it also saves farmers a lot of money from weedicides, protects their plants, and lessen their workloads. Who wouldn't want a robot who can weed come rain or shine?

Let's talk
Urban And Peri-Urban Farming

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

Bet you've only heard of urban and not peri-urban farming. You may be asking yourself, "is there a difference in meaning?" Well, the answer to that is yes! Peri-urban and Urban farming despite being similar, has distinctive meanings and tend to differ in form and purpose.

Urban farming is growing crops in developed cities or areas and as compared to commercial farming which is done on huge plots of land, urban farming often happens in back yards, small gardens, roof tops, containers or balconies. The farming system begun to enable individuals in the cities and communities get access to fresh foods and to also adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Also, some individuals in urban areas indulge in this farming system as a hobby or to cut down cost on food items since vegetables and fruits from the rural areas cost more in urban communities.

However, with rural lands being urbanized these days for estates and other developmental infrastructure, it has birth what is now known as peri-urban farming.

The Food and Drugs Authority define peri-urban farming as a practice which takes place on land and other spaces close to cities and urban communities and yields food and other outputs for the community. Peri-urban farming in developing countries like Ghana, focuses on contributing to the relief of stress, poverty and overall to ensure food security, while in industrialized countries, it emphasizes on ecological and social values.
Peri-urban communities may be close to cities and have urban characteristics but are still not urban yet and as a result, these farms may be larger than urban farms and are semi-commercial but may not be the same as rural farms.

Nevertheless, it is worth noting that, the two contribute a lot to the agriculture sector and here is how;

Urban areas are filled with air pollution and carbon gases thus practicing urban and per-urban farming helps to clear the air and gets rid of these greenhouse gases cars and factories emit which is detrimental to our health.

Also, with these farming practices in use, land in rural areas could ease of the burden and pressure of feeding the entire population; lessening destruction on our ecosystem.
Furthermore, it curbs the rise in food prices in the country because when fresh produce is available in the cities, farmers and traders will not have to spend so much on transportation to bring food items to urban areas.

We also get to practice sustainability and not forcefully cultivate on lands which are not viable just to feed the population. With these farming practices, our lands are utilized more efficiently and we also contribute to the quest of ensuring food security and boosting food productivity in the world.

AFRICAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

By Maame Henewaa

Agriculture is one of the dominating sources of economic development in most African countries. Generally, men are noticed as farmers however, most women in some African countries such as Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda engage in Farming.

Even though these women's hard labor on the fields are not appreciated, they contribute to Africa's agricultural development. Most women in the African countries are the pioneers of small-scale farming. These women engage in cultivating and harvesting crops, caring for farm animals, and managing other parts of the farm. They also encounter difficulties such as lack of adequate land, farming machinery and capital that hinders their capacity to enhance the value of their agricultural effort.

These women also experience inequality when it comes to social rights and decisions which results in low productivity and profit. Women in some African countries hardly own lands. They get access to these lands through their husbands, father or brother and they may lose these lands once they divorce their husbands or the death of their relatives. This results to the women not involving in the right farming practices to till the soil leading to unproductive and inefficient harvests.

Many actions have been taken to protect the land rights of these women for some years now. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute's article on "Empowering Africa's women farmers", Ethiopia has implemented a 'joint land registration', which includes the names and pictures of both husband and wife on certificates, thereby formalizing women's rights to the land on which they farm. It has
been demonstrated that this change has increased land investment, particularly by women.

Women who are also aware of their land rights highly invest, confirming the significance of legal literacy initiatives.

US farms

Eight percent of U.S. farms market foods locally through farmers' markets and food hubs.

Pineapple tea

Drinking pineapple tea may also help improve your digestion and alleviate digestive issues such as bloating, constipation, and indigestion. The tea is also a good source of vitamin C.

GLOBAL TRADE, EXPORT DEVELOPMENT

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

The farmer is often faced with a lot of issues including access to funds, technology, post- harvest losses among others and when the farmer tries his/her best to overcome all these, getting a ready market to buy his/her processed goods become another problem.

As a result, most farmers are left with no choice than to sell their produce at ridiculously cheap prices just to clear them and cut their losses.

According to the International Food Policy Research Institute, the estimated post-harvest loss Ghana faces is between 20-50% per harvest. Many historians have several theories about the history of agriculture but one thing they all seem to agree on is the period it started.

They all believe it started at a time when the Pleistocene Epoch, also known as the ice age, was coming to an end. Post-harvest losses also decrease the food available on market and if we cannot export our produce to other country, how do we gain revenue for the country?
Ghana currently is the second largest exporter of Cocoa, but that is not all we grow in the country. Ghana is blessed with enough arable lands, suitable to support every crop in the world yet how many of these crops are we able to export?

However, the issue of a ready market on the international market has been of major priority to TIAST Group, an agricultural industrialization committed to providing investors with offtake support.

An investor who partners with TIAST gets a ready market for all processed goods. The investor gets the opportunity to export his or her produce directly to the international market. The commodities TIAST Group exports for agribusiness men are processed goods, hence the investor is able to gain earn more due to the standardized nature of the prices.

Imagine owning a cassava starch processing company and having to sell 600,000 tons annually. Unlike selling the raw cassava or being afraid to lose crops after harvest, the investor, through the help of TIAST is able to sell them off quickly to industries in the industrial nations.

Currently, there is high demand of cassava starch on the international market, and TIAST has already secured the supply of starch to industries in China. These industries, include the confectionery, paint, textiles, and other industries.

For instance, currently, a ton of cassava starch costs US$ 550 as determined by the Thai Tapioca Starch Association (TTSA). You can start exporting your processed produce on the international market, just connect with TIAST Group.

Call +233 20 475 8888 now.

Gooseberry Cake

By Mavis Esaaba Mensah

Gooseberry Cake is a delicious healthier snack or dessert for your parties and family gatherings. Gooseberry cakes are highly nutritious and contain fewer calories, they are rich in vitamins, antioxidants and minerals which may help in controlling blood sugar, protect the brain, and also be very good for the heart. Without wasting much time, let's go straight to how this delicious cake is made;

Ingredients

- 300grams Flour
- 2 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 125grams Caster Sugar
- 150grams gooseberries
- 1 large egg
- 75militers Oil
- Pinch of salt

Recipe

1. Preheat oven to 190 degrees Celsius, and line the baking pan with a baking paper
2. In a mixing bowl, sift all dry ingredients, that is, the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Mix in 75g of caster sugar and mix the remaining caster sugar with the gooseberries.
3. In another mixing bowl, rub butter and flour and stir in sugar to form small tufts and set aside
4. Mix all wet ingredients, that is the egg, and oil in a bowl then fold in all dry ingredients to form a batter, ensure all ingredients are uniformly mixed without overmixing.
5. With a spoon, transfer the batter into the lined baking pan, use the spoon to smoothen the surface and sprinkle the gooseberries with sugar on top of the batter. Bake for about 40 to 50 minutes.
6. Leave to cool in the baking pan for 10 minutes, then unmold to cool on a baking rack. Dust with icing sugar and enjoy!!

Climate Change and Agriculture

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

Climate Change has been a hot topic these days and the media and activists fervently report on it to discuss various ways it is affecting the world. Today let's look at how it is affecting agriculture. Climate change has become a persistent issue and everyone is feeling its effects including farmers who depend on the seasons and weather conditions to go about their duties.

Climate Change and agriculture are intimately linked by the deviations in weather patterns as farmers need favourable weather patterns to maintain their farms.
however, climate change is causing temperatures to rise and existing seasons to change. These days farmers can no longer tell when to plant or sow and there are droughts instead of rain in the rainy season and excessive floods which destroy crop yield.

It also makes the lands drier, less productive and unable to support crop life. Farmers in Africa have to spend on irrigation systems and technology to get water for their farms which is often very expensive.

Climate change also destroys farms and make environmental conditions so challenging that farming is no longer an option. As a result, small holder farmers in rural areas abandon their farms to urban cities in search for new jobs. In 2021, extreme weather uprooted more than 23 million people globally.

In other parts of the world, conflicts are rising as a result of climate change and this may seem unrelated but true. Due to the difficulties climate change present, individuals who bear the effects begin to fight and compete for resources. Everyone wants access to water, arable lands and suitable places for their animals to graze, as a result, uprisings and conflicts occur which further leads to damages and loss.

We need to come together and adopt sustainable practices to curb some causes of climate change like deforestation, carbon emissions to conserve our resources and environment. Government and private individuals should also invest in research to generate more innovation solutions that would help combat climate change issues.

Into The Farmlands

Wake up! wake up!
it is time to go
yes indeed, the cock has crowed
Get your gears;
MY lovely dears
Your hoes and horses
Count your forces
With galloping hooves, race to the farms
Get in your groove and reach the barns
Till, dig-up plough, and sow
Yes, that is how we make the dough
Wake up! Wake up!
It is time to go
Into the farmlands
Where we grow

—— Poem by Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

THE WEALTH OF AGRICULTURE IN GHANA

By Kwabena Poku Antwi

Ghana's economy has been built on agriculture for a long time, employing up to 60% of the population and contributing 20% of the GDP. Ghana has the potential to become a major player in global agriculture markets thanks to its favorable climate, fertile soil, and abundant water resources.

Cocoa, cashew, maize, rice, and yam are major staples in the country's diverse agricultural sector. About 30% of Ghana's total export earnings come from cocoa, which is the country's most important agricultural export.

Furthermore, Ghana is the world's second-biggest maker of cashew nuts, and the public authority has set an aggressive objective to expand creation to 500,000 metric tons each year by 2027.

Ghanaian farmers face a number of challenges despite the sector's potential. Access to financial resources is a major issue. As a result, many smallholder farmers are unable to invest in their farms and increase their productivity because they lack the collateral required to obtain loans from conventional banks. However, by providing farmers with access to credit and technical assistance, initiatives like the Ghana Incentive-Based Risk-Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (GIRSAL) are attempting to address this issue.

Ghanaian agriculture is increasingly dependent on digital technologies. Digital platforms are enabling farmers to connect directly with buyers and access real-time market information, cutting out middlemen and increasing their profits, and mobile phone use is widespread throughout the nation.

Overall, Ghana's agricultural wealth is evident. The sector has the potential to drive economic growth and development, create jobs, and enhance food security for millions of Ghanaians with the appropriate investments in finance, technology, and infrastructure.

TODAY'S TIPS

Hobby farms are fantastic because they provide you the chance to fine-tune your farming abilities on a smaller scale. You are free to focus on gaining more farming expertise rather than thinking about how to make it your primary source of revenue because you don't have the financial burden of a large-scale operation. Make it modest and enjoyable.

A hobby farm can produce organic food that you pick yourself, ensuring that every step of the process is safe. Additionally, since you'll be able to see the results of your labor, you'll be inspired to consume more fruit and veggies because they come from your own garden.

L'appui à l'exportation de la céréale dans le monde

Par Yosua Domedjui

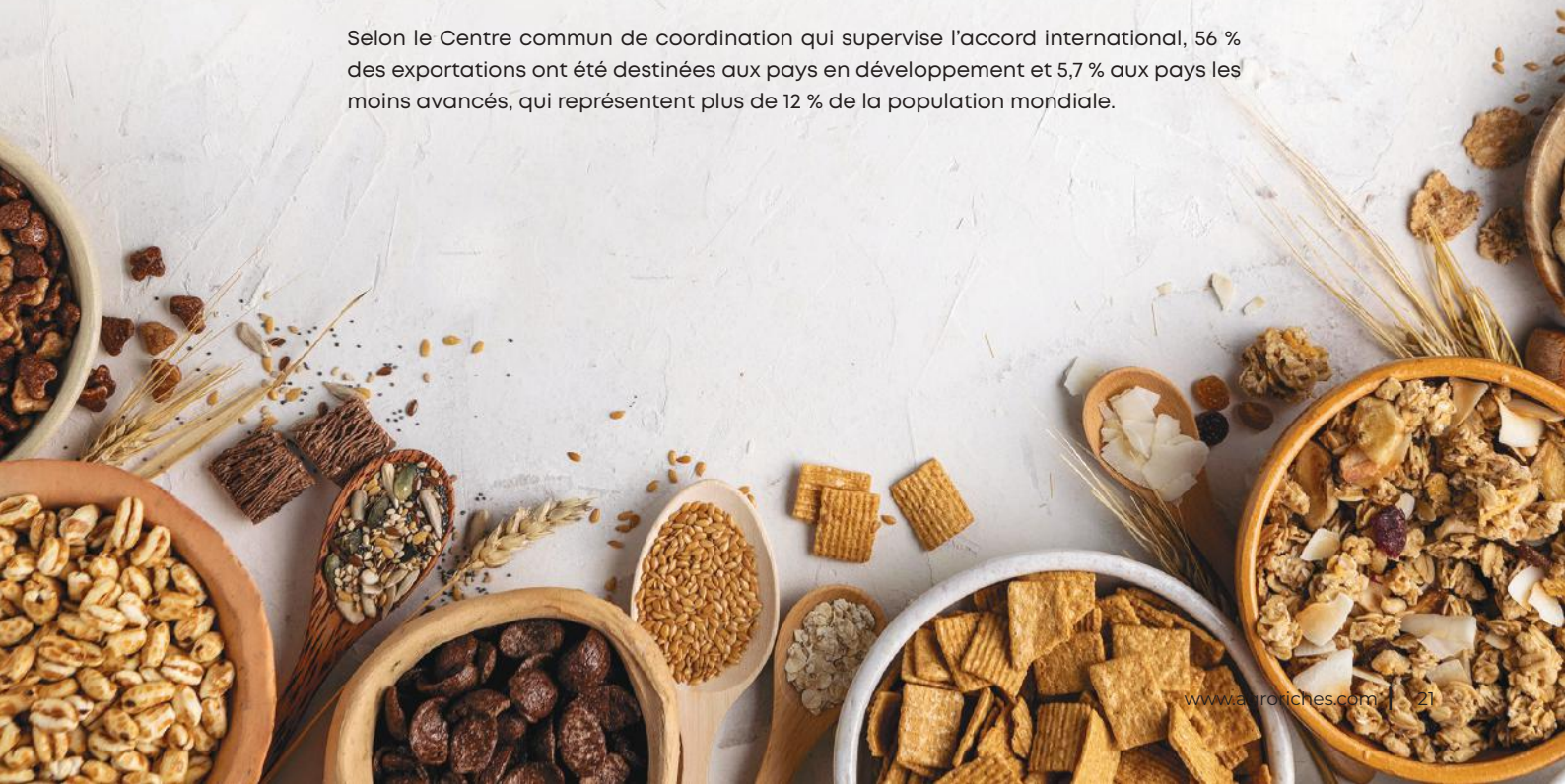
L'accord Moscou permettant l'exportation des céréales russes en Occident prendra fin le 18 mai, alors la Russie menace de suspendre l'accord sur les exportations si les ventes de ses produits restent entravées.

Parmi les exigences du Kremlin, la reconnexion au système bancaire international SWIFT de la banque russe spécialisée dans l'agriculture ou encore le dégel des actifs de sociétés russes liées au secteur agricole situés à l'étranger.

Une initiative céréalière de la mer Noire a été signée en juillet 2022 avec l'Ukraine et la Turquie, avec l'ONU permet l'exportation de tonnes de maïs, de blé autres céréales depuis les ports ukrainiens.
Ces exportations, essentielles pour l'agriculture mondiale, ne tombent théoriquement pas sous le coup des sanctions imposées par les pays occidentaux depuis le début de la guerre, mais sont de facto bloquée par les banques.

Les Nations unies ont déclaré qu'elles feraient tout ce qui est en leur pouvoir pour sauver le mécanisme des céréales. Depuis l'été 2022, il a permis d'exporter plus de 27 millions de tonnes de produits agricoles et d'atténuer la flambée des prix due à la guerre.

Selon le Centre commun de coordination qui supervise l'accord international, 56 % des exportations ont été destinées aux pays en développement et 5,7 % aux pays les moins avancés, qui représentent plus de 12 % de la population mondiale.



Soutien à la filière du soja

Par Yosua Domedjui

Visite du Président Patrick Talon aux acteurs des filières acajou et soja du Bénin. L'objectif de cette rencontre est de discuter avec les acteurs des défis liés au développement de ces deux filières.

Le secteur agricole est l'un des principaux moteurs de l'économie béninoise, représentant environ 23% du PIB et employant plus de 70% de la population active.

Le Bénin est l'un des plus grands producteurs de noix de cajou en Afrique, après la Côte d'Ivoire, et produit également des quantités importantes de soja.

Cependant, malgré ces réalisations, le secteur agricole est confronté à un certain nombre de défis, notamment en ce qui concerne la production et la commercialisation des produits.
Les producteurs du pays sont aujourd'hui confrontés à une situation difficile, avec une baisse de la demande de produits et un manque d'offres d'achat de la part d'entreprises autres que GDIZ qui leur proposent un prix inférieur à leurs attentes.

De plus, les producteurs ont des difficultés à exporter leurs produits vers les pays voisins où ils peuvent obtenir de meilleures conditions. Cette situation met en péril leur source de revenus et leurs moyens de subsistance, et une action urgente est nécessaire pour les aider.

Le président a clairement souligné l'importance du secteur de l'acajou et du soja dans le développement de l'économie du pays et a profité de l'occasion pour exhorter les parties prenantes à faire tout ce qui est en leur pouvoir pour développer le secteur.

Le Maroc gratifie d'autres pays africains de fertilisants

Par Yosua Domedjui

Afin d'apporter son aide a secteur agricole africain, le Maroc a fait don des fertilisants à plusieurs pays de la région.

En février dernier, le 23e monarque de la dynastie alaouite, et 3e à porter le titre de roi du Maroc, depuis le 23 juillet 1999, Sa Majesté Mohammed VI a procédé à la remise don en présence du président gabonais Ali Bongo Ondimba. Il s'agissait de 2000 tonnes de fertilisants. Par ce geste, le Maroc tenait à montrer sa délicatesse à l'égard des acteurs du secteur agricole du Gabon qui est faible face à la crise alimentaire mondiale et la difficulté d'accès aux engrais.

La collaboration entre les deux pays ne s'arrêtera pas là, le Roi Mohammed VI a tenu à continuer dans cette lancer en garantissant aux agriculteurs gabonais l'accès continu aux fertilisants de qualité afin de satisfaire leurs sols.

Le Ministre gabonais des affaires étrangères a avoué que ce don du Maroc allait considérablement détendre les agriculteurs gabonais. Ces fertilisants les aideront certainement à faire un pas de plus dans leur désir de réduire les importations et de favoriser la consommation des denrées produits par leurs terres.

En dehors du Maroc et d'autres pays, la Mauritanie a elle aussi reçu un don important de fertilisant, 5000 tonnes précisément. Les principaux bénéficiaires ont été les petits agriculteurs mauritaniens car ils représentent plus de la moitié des producteurs de denrées alimentaire dans le pays. Ce pays a été le principal bénéficiaire de cette campagne.

En dehors de la distribution de ces fertilisants, le programme a également pour but de former et sensibiliser les agriculteurs à l'adoption de meilleures méthodes agricoles sur plusieurs points du secteur.

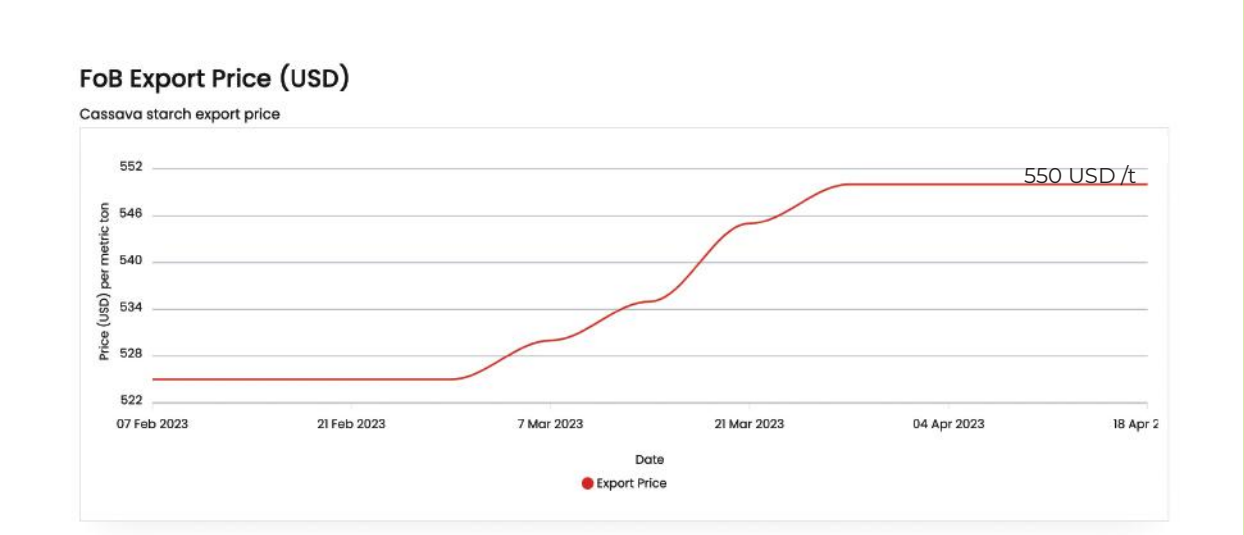
Quant aux agriculteurs sénégalais, ils ont reçu 25 000 tonnes de produits phosphatiers (10.000 tonnes de DAP (Phosphate diammonique), de 5.000 tonnes de TSP (Triple Super Phosphate) et de 10.000 tonnes d'engrais). Cette action renforcera davantage la relation fraternelle qui règne entre les deux pays.

Ce programme initié par OCP, leader mondial sur le marché de la nutrition des plantes et des engrais phosphatés, compte plus de 4 millions d'agriculteurs bénéficiaires à travers le continent africain.

Market Analysis of Cassava Starch In Thailand

The market prices of cassava starch have reduced slightly over the last month. The price ranges from 500-550 US dollars/ton (3,627.80 yuan /ton). This week, the market price of cassava starch in Thailand's tapioca starch quotation is FOB (Bangkok) 495 US dollars/ton (3,788.46 yuan/ton). The starch prices in the domestic cassava starch market are stable. In Thailand, the raw material supply of fresh cassava is stable. The average starch leavening of cassava starch is between 24-28 percent. Thailand is relatively stable, the open factories remain high, and the starch output continues to increase. The speed of cassava starch clearance is still low, and the quotations of traders are slightly confused.

Thailand Cassava Starch price



Price Factors

Quality of cassava root: Factory owners demand cassava with high starch content for production. Higher starch content would receive a higher price than the lower one. The price WWWoffered by the collector is dependent on the quality of the cassava root, specifically, the starch content.

Cost of Labour: Total labour cost including farm labour for the cultivation and harvesting of cassava. The cost of labour during the harvesting period is high as compared to cultivation therefore the cost of harvesting directly affects pricing.

Harvest Yield: There is a high correlation between harvest yield and the price of cassava. The price of cassava is lower when there is a low yield. The lowest prices in June and July can be explained in a similar way but the opposite end. It is noted that the abundance of cassava roots drives the prices down.

Handling and Logistics: The storage and shipping costs from producing areas to importing countries are great determinants of cassava prices. When the shipping and transportation cost of cassava to consumers and industries are high, it affects the retail price of cassava. Cassava farmers bring their harvest to the collectors, where they are responsible for absorbing the cost of transportation from farm to collecting fields.

Harvesting time: The harvesting period is a great determinant for the price of cassava. The abundance and scarcity of cassava affect the price. The prices of fresh cassava roots often rise in November and December of every year as cassava is easily harvested during the rainy season. During the harvesting season, the prices are relatively high due to the limited supply.

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