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GHANA TODAY

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EDITORIAL

The Dynamic Nature of Cotton and Wool

NOTRE CHRONIQUE

Microsoft au service du développement agricole



RIDING THE CREST OF
INNOVATION

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.

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Technology makes farming more sustainable.

Modern agriculture frequently makes use of cutting-edge technologies including robotics, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial photographs, and GPS.

Agribusinesses are now able to operate more profitably, efficiently, safely, and environmentally friendly thanks to these cutting-edge gadgets, robotic systems, and precision agriculture.

With the help of big data, cutting-edge technologies, such as the Internet of Things, drone footage, and smartphone apps, smart farming and precision agriculture can collect as much material and produce enough while using fewer energy and inputs. (fertilizers, phytosanitary products, water).

Technology has a direct relationship with sustainability. Some of its impacts are decreasing use of water, fertilizer, and pesticides, which in turn keeps food prices down. It also reduces impact on natural ecosystems as well as ensuring less runoff of chemicals into rivers and

groundwater.

According to an article published by Hutchins, he asserted that sustainability is a survival concern, but it goes much beyond the idea of habitat loss and soil erosion. He indicated that, sustainability encompasses the pursuit of food production, the welfare of food producers, and the protection of non-renewable resources. To that end, technology of all kinds has been and will continue to be the enabling human creation that connects these two overarching goals.

“In fact, technological advancements in recent years have demonstrated how important they have been to agricultural productivity and stability, and common sense leads us to believe that technology will support sustainable agriculture,” Hutchins said.

Mangosteen

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Origin

The Mangosteen fruit is a native of the tropical regions surrounding the Indian Ocean, an evergreen tree with edible fruit. Due to extensive prehistoric cultivation, its ancestry is unknown. The tree has been brought to Colombia, Puerto Rico, and other tropical regions, but it primarily grows in Southeast Asia, southwest India, and these regions.

Description

The reddish-purple fruit contains a white, juicy, sweet, tangy, and sugar-rich pulp. The leaves are thick, and have a slight sheen. Although mature leaves have dull, pale undersides, they can be a beautiful shade of olive to dark green.

Health Benefits

May Promote Weight Loss

The anti-inflammatory properties of the fruit help to promote fat metabolism and prevent weight gain

Rich in Powerful Antioxidants

Vitamin C and folate are two minerals found in mangosteen that have antioxidant properties. Additionally, it offers xanthones, a special class of plant molecule with potent antioxidant capabilities.

High in Nutrition

Mangosteen contains vitamins and minerals that are essential for a variety of body processes, including DNA synthesis, muscular contraction, wound healing, immunity, and nerve communication.





AGRIC IS THE PIVOT FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION - AGRIC MINISTRY

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture in charge of crops, Yaw Fimpong Addo, has indicated that, the agricultural sector is critical to ensuring economic transformation.

“There are a number of recent developments that enhance Ghana’s ability to provide quality seed in commercial quantity for its major food crops”

He mentioned that, a well-developed agricultural sector will continue to play a crucial role by providing food and creating jobs to promote sustainable development.

He made this known at the USAID-Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Partnership for Inclusive Agriculture Transformation in Africa (PIATA) event in Accra which was held under the theme, “Building an inclusive and sustainable input system for food system transformation and resilience in Ghana”.

Addressing the low farm productivity, the Minister called for strategic partnerships and interventions to improve yields and production of food crops through an improved input system.

“There are a number of recent developments that enhance Ghana’s ability to provide quality seed in commercial

quantity for its major food crops. These include, the enactment of new seed law, the development of regulations for implementing the law, the new national agricultural policy, the activities of domestic and foreign seed companies, and donor interests,” he said.

On the part of USAID-PIATA, the Country Manager for AGRA, Juliette Lampoh, said the partnership is aimed at building systems that catalyze the adoption of quality inputs, including improved seeds and fertilizers, increase farmer access to soil fertility enhancement technologies and practices.

Speaking, she said, “Moving forward, the USAID-AGRA PIATA partnership aims at catalyzing efforts to open up new opportunities and leverage resources and partnerships for an inclusive and sustainable input system for food security and resilience in Ghana.”

Nigeria poised for genome editing technologies

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

The Director-General of the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NAGDA), Prof. Abdullahi Mustapha has disclosed that, Nigeria is ever-ready for genome editing technology with the biosafety laws in place.

According to him, this intervention would boost agricultural productivity in the country.

He added that, genome editing technology is a technological advancement that aids in precision agriculture by allowing a crop's genetic defects to be targeted and rectified, allowing the crop to produce its maximum output.

He listed the many advantages of the technique, including a shorter time between planting and harvesting, the ability to mitigate climate change, and the need for fewer pesticide applications.

"When used in agriculture, all the diseases bedeviling crops in the country, most especially crops of interest used as food and industrial raw materials are the ones being targeted," he explained.

He added, "When this has been achieved, the country is going to gain quite a lot in terms of food supply and agricultural raw materials for industrial development.

"With that, there would be wealth creation as employment opportunities shall be available for our teeming population of youths."

According to him, the technology was a project of the Center of Excellence in Science, Technology, and Innovation of the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD). (STI).

"Genome editing technology is a technological advancement that aids in precision agriculture by allowing a crop's genetic defects to be targeted and rectified"



Kenyan Farmers Admonished to Champion Digital Technology in Farming

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

At the launch of the 1st Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) scientific conference and exhibition, stakeholders urged Kenyan farmers to adopt the utilization of digital and artificial intelligence revolution to keep us with the technological trends in the agricultural sector.

According to the Agriculture and Livestock Cabinet Secretary, Mithika Linturi, this is necessary to enable the agricultural sector to fully exploit agriculture to revolutionize ways of doing farming.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Principal Secretary State Department for Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture Harry, Kimtai, farmers must harness the potential of digital technologies to make them fully equipped with information and resources.

“Climate change is one of the biggest threats today, so it is essential to develop innovative solutions, such as smart agriculture to mitigate adverse effects, and to ensure sustainable livelihoods, food and nutrition security for our people” he said.

“KALRO cannot realize its legal mandate which is directly in line with our development blue print Vision 2030 without catalyzing the adoption of modern technologies in the agriculture sector,” the Cabinet Secretary explained.

Meanwhile, he stated that, the government is placing more emphasis on agriculture and notably sponsoring research, stressing that the development of new types and technologies would be challenging with no funding.

“Without funding it is going to be difficult to increase our productivity thus the need to direct more funding to KALRO in order for them to release more products that the farmer can benefit from and the government is doing this currently,” he disclosed.

“KALRO cannot realize its legal mandate which is directly in line with our development blue print Vision 2030 without catalyzing the adoption of modern technologies in the agriculture sector”



The Dynamic Nature of Cotton and Wool

By Precious Smith

Two of the most significant fibers utilized in the creation of textiles worldwide are cotton and wool. Both have been utilized for many years and have contributed significantly to the advancement of human civilizations. We shall go through the cultivation, utilization, and significance of cotton and wool in agriculture in this article.

Cotton

Cotton is a soft, fluffy fiber that develops around the seeds of cotton plants in a boll, or protective capsule. Many nations, including the United States, India, China, Pakistan, and Brazil, grow cotton as a major crop. Millions of farmers and their families earn a living from cotton, which is a significant revenue crop.

Cotton needs rich soil, warm weather, and sufficient rainfall to be grown. Cotton plants normally reach a height of three to six feet after being sown with seeds in the spring. Cotton plants need a lot of water; hence irrigation is frequently required in areas with low rainfall. Cotton plants need nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium in addition to water, and these elements are frequently given to the soil through fertilizers.

The cotton bolls start to open and the fibers inside start to mature after around 100 days of growth. Machines are then used to harvest the cotton by removing the bolls from the plants. Ginning is the technique used to remove the

cotton fibers from the seeds, after which the fibers are spun into thread or yarn.

Numerous things, such as clothing, bedding, and towels, are made from cotton. Additionally, it is employed in the manufacture of non-textile goods including animal feed and oil.

Wool

The fiber known as wool is derived from the fleece of sheep or other creatures like goats, alpacas, or llamas. Wool has been used for garments and other things for thousands of years because it is a versatile and strong material. Numerous nations, including Australia, New Zealand, China, and the United Kingdom, produce wool.

In the spring or early summer, sheep are normally shorn once a year. Following that, the wool is cleaned and processed to get rid of mud and other impurities. After being spun into yarn, the wool fibers are used to create a range of goods, including as garments, blankets, and carpets. Wool is a vital agricultural product since it supports sheep farmers' families financially. Sheep grazing can also be good for the environment since it preserves habitats such as grasslands.

To conclude, careful management of soil, water, and other resources is necessary for the cultivation of cotton and wool.



Center Pivot Irrigation

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

The irrigation technique known as center-pivot irrigation, also referred to as water-wheel irrigation and circle irrigation, rotates around a pivot while watering crops with sprinklers.

This type of irrigation takes place in a circle that is centered on the pivot, frequently resulting in crops that appear circular from above. The majority of center pivots were originally moved by water, but today the majority are propelled by electric motors.

Frank Zybach, a farmer from Strasburg, Colorado, invented center-pivot irrigation in 1940. It is acknowledged as a practical way to enhance the distribution of water to fields.

The use of a center pivot requires relatively level terrain, but it also has the primary benefit of being able to operate across undulating terrain, unlike other systems that rely on gravity flow.

Because of this benefit, certain locations now have more irrigated land and utilize more water. The technique is utilized in some sections of the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, as well as arid regions like the Sahara and the Middle East.

Let's talk Soil Fertility

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Soil fertility is the ability of soil to sustain plant growth and optimize crop yield. This can be enhanced through organic and inorganic fertilizers to the soil.

One of the most crucial aspects of a soil for crop growth is its fertility. To grow healthily and produce well, crops need the proper amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and other nutrients. The nutrients required for plant growth and a good yield are retained at moderate to high levels in fertile soils.

Soil fertility can be further improved by incorporating cover crops that add organic matter to the soil, which leads to improved soil

structure and promotes a healthy, fertile soil; by using green manure or growing legumes to fix nitrogen from the air through the process of biological nitrogen fixation.

Soil that is rich in organic matter tends to be darker and crumbles off of the roots of plants you pull up. A healthy, spread-out root system is also a sign of good soil.

In order to calculate soil fertility, a soil sample is mixed with water and the N, P, and K are chemically extracted as nitrate, phosphate, and potassium. By contrasting the solution with a color chart, the levels of N, P, and K in the sample are identified.

**“
To grow healthily and produce well, crops need the proper amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and other nutrients.”**



Uganda implements an agriculture digitalization program to pique the interest of the youth

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

The Digital Economy Programme has made a lot of progress in the agricultural sector by understanding the plight and value chain of most farmers to provide support through creating market-driven technology to provide solutions that suit young growers and to also enhance access to essential services, funding, markets, products, and employment for 3.4 million people living in far-flung areas across Uganda.

Thus, the government of Uganda, in collaboration with Innovation and Mastercard Foundation has come up with an agriculture digitalization programme to encourage more young ones to enter the farming and other aspects of agriculture.

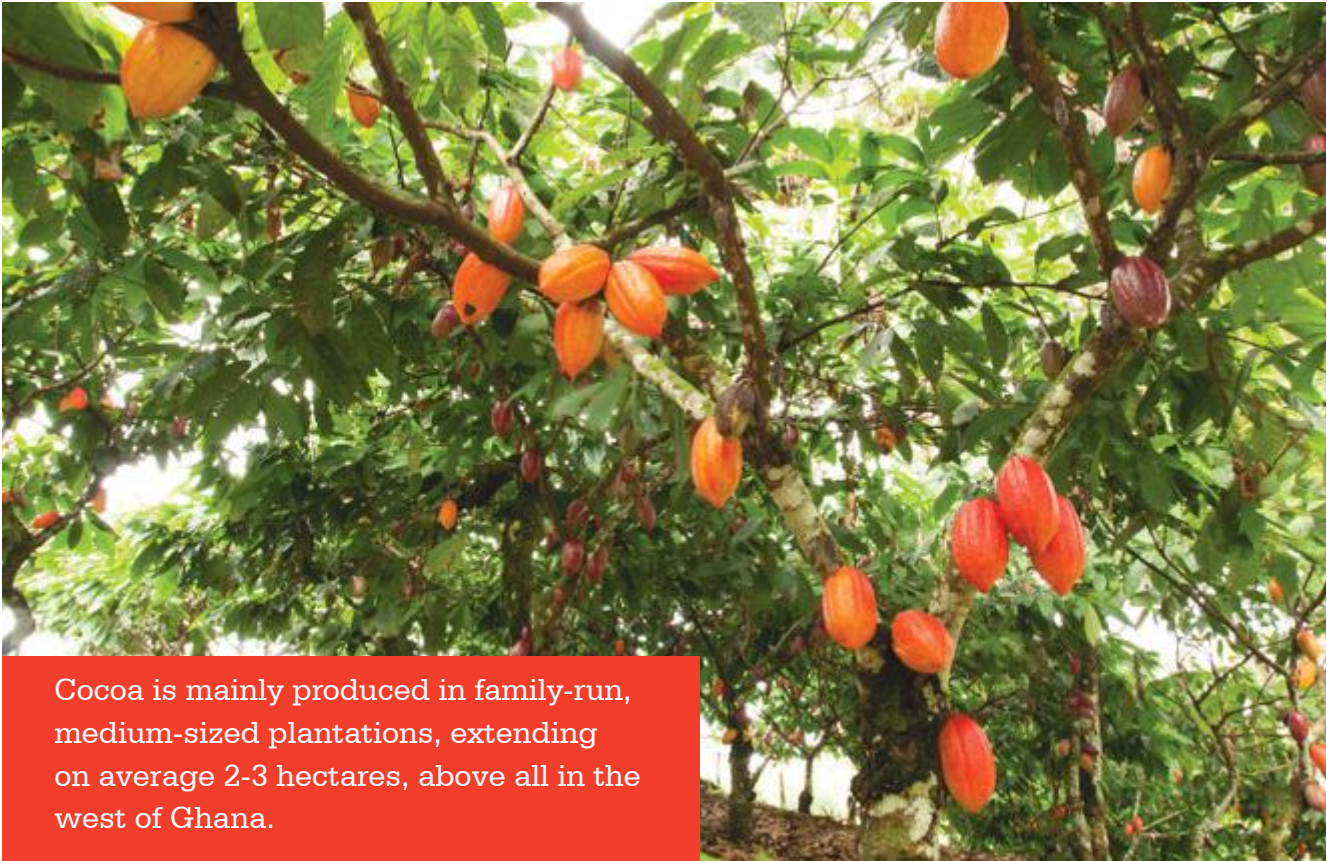
Last week, the National Planning Authority in Uganda, the unit in charge of piloting this agenda, launched several digital platforms which bring multiple service providers, ranging from financial service providers to insurance companies and input sellers among others, to serve young farmers. The platforms will also ensure that, its end users enjoy reduced costs of production and also enable service providers to reach far-away users in the rural communities who do not often benefit from such programs.

According to the Deputy Executive of NPA, Mr. Charles Olweny Ojok, advocating for these platforms will not only help the economy but will also serve as an avenue for creating job opportunities for young people.

He also added that, "last year, the programme studied the needs of 370 farm producing organisations and out of 650,000 farmers that featured in the program 250,000 were young farmers."

He therefore urged farmers, technology entrepreneurs and organizations to embrace the shared platforms.





Cocoa is mainly produced in family-run, medium-sized plantations, extending on average 2-3 hectares, above all in the west of Ghana.

Aloe vera

Aloe vera may be useful for reducing dental plaque, accelerating wound healing, preventing wrinkles, and managing blood sugar, among others.



Riding the crest of innovation

TIAST Group's existence in the West Africa sub-region has projected the numerous potentials and prospects the region can harness from the agricultural sector. The region's agricultural sector has received numerous applauds from the globe due to its high rate of producing fresh crops. Countries like Nigeria and Ghana are among the top producers of agricultural products in the world.

Meanwhile, the region hasn't realized or translated its potentials in the agricultural sector to become a highly-industrialized one. Becoming a highly-industrialized region means that we need to move from just fresh crop production to a sector where we add more value to these crops. Although, there's the potential to move into value addition, the region is challenged by financial, technical and offtake support.

However, in mitigating this challenge, TIAST Group has made available some support systems to help the region move into agricultural industrialization. Currently, TIAST Group is keen on partnering with agribusiness investors, entrepreneurs and individuals who want to own agro-processing factories.

This is a laudable idea and has received some appreciable comments by the region. The company provides 80% financial support to all investors who want to own an agro-processing factory. This means that, the investor would have to invest only 20%.

Again, the company provides technical and technological support to all investors. TIAST has expert engineers who design, manufacture, install and offer after-sales maintenance for all machinery needed to put the factory into full operation. The technical support extends to the locals as well. With the locals, the company trains them to be able to operate the factory fully. This brings in a lot of employment opportunities and makes the locals in the vicinity where the factory is set up skilled. This is however, part of the localization mission of the company, thus everything is done to empower the locals.



Finally, the company provides quick offtake service for all who partner with TIAST. The agricultural produce from the factory is sold off quickly by TIAST Group to the international market for use in various industries. For cassava starch, the company has secured an order of 600,000 tons, thus for an investor who sets up a factory with TIAST, you don't have the challenge of a ready market or post production losses.



Get to own an agroprocessing factory today by calling +233 475 8888 and let's build West Africa.

Mangosteen Clafouti

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

Mangosteen is a Thai fruit which is not often found in our regular markets and Clafouti is a very old-style dessert from France which features a cloud-like type of custard made with fresh fruit.

Ingredients

5 mangosteens

1/2 cup + 1 Tbsp. sugar

1 tsp. cornstarch

1/3 cup rice flour (OR regular all purpose flour)

4 large eggs

Pinch of salt

1 cup coconut milk

1 tsp. grated lemon peel

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1 tsp. coconut extract

Optional: 1 tsp. icing sugar for garnish



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and use little oil or butter to grease a ½ quart casserole dish.
2. Use a sharp knife to cut off the stem section at the top of the mangosteen.
3. Inside the thick skin you will find small, white segments of fruit. Remove these segments (but leave any stones inside).
4. Toss the fruit segments with 1 tsp. cornstarch and 1 Tbsp. sugar to coat.
5. Arrange these segments in the bottom of the casserole dish, or divide them out evenly among the ramekins and set aside.
6. In a large bowl, whisk eggs with the salt and sugar to blend. Then whisk in the flour, stirring until smooth.
7. Add the coconut milk, lemon peel, plus vanilla and coconut extract, whisk to blend.
8. Pour this mixture into the casserole dish (over the mangosteen segments). If using ramekins, ladle the mixture into the ramekins, divide it out evenly among the dishes. Note that the fruit may float in the egg mixture - this is desirable.
9. Place the casserole dish in the oven. If using ramekins, place the filled ramekins in a lasagna-type baking dish. Pour some water into the dish - enough to reach 1/4 to 1/3 the way up the side of the ramekins.
10. Bake 55 minutes to 1 hour, or until the dessert is set in the middle and lightly browned on top.



Serve warm with a little icing sugar sifted over

What would it take the Ghanaian child to be a farmer

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

I walked into a primary class one day and asked the kids what they wanted to be in future and their response were just as I expected, "astronaut, lawyer, doctor, nurse, etc," but no one mentioned a farmer, and I didn't have to spend much time wondering why.

Throughout my childhood I cannot recall any mate of mine wanting to be a farmer.

Every parent wants their child to be a doctor, lawyer, engineer and any other fancy job that may require a uniform, suit and tie or accord them the highest respect in society, anything but a farmer.

Parents will use family members who are into farming as an advice lesson for kids saying, "learn hard so you don't

end up like Uncle A or B, who farms to make a living in the village and even the farmer, wouldn't want their own children to become like them.

The lack of interest may have started at home with our parents, and continued in our schools as students who misbehaved were often given plots of land or the school farm to weed as forms of punishment. These kids passed out seeing farming and agriculture as a punishment or a degrading job rather than a profession.

In addition, the Ghana Education Service has recently changed the syllabus of the basic school yet agriculture, which used to be studied several years ago was not reintroduced.

Gone were the days when almost every secondary school had a school farm and even poultry farms where kids worked on as part of the curriculum and the produce was used to prepare food for students with the excess sold outside.

Recently, the subject is not taught in schools for students to appreciate the profession, know it's importance or to even pique their interest in the field. Children are not taught where the food they eat comes from or how to even grow them, and it's the same in second cycle institutions as only a handful still teach Agric-science or have school farms.

Also, agricultural issues are not sensitive to young individuals in the country. This in the sense that, as the country's population continue to increase, more and more individuals need lands to build among other things, so what happens when there aren't enough for everyone?

Casting our minds back to the very beginning of man, farming, was the very first profession given man by God, in Genesis 2:15. As such, as kids are the future generation, we as Ghanaians need to end the cycle of according certain jobs more respect than others in the society so as to not carry on such perceptions to our young ones. Also, reintroducing agriculture into our basic and secondary school systems will incorporate the importance of agriculture into our future leaders.



That Which Never Comes

Full of hope I waited and waited
For the rain, But rain never came
Sitting under the trees, I stared hard
Paying no heed to the passing breeze
I thought of all I had
I looked up to the sky with my hands lifted high
And with a heavy sigh I shouted HI!
TO the man up there! How do you fare?
Till when would you keep the rain away
And leave my farm to wither away
Till when will the sailor have to wait at bay
For the harvest that would never come
HI Man, up there, How do you fare?
Could this be some sort of test
For we who do not let the water rest?
Said and done, I left to wait another day
For the rain that never came

— Poem by Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi





LOOK FORWARD TO THE HARVEST WITH CONFIDENCE WHEN DONE RIGHTLY

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

The word “harvest” can evoke a variety of feelings in farmers. To experience a good harvest season, the farmer must take these into consideration.

Get the right tools

A farmer must ensure that he or she has the right tools to grow the numerous food varieties on the farm. Make sure you have the proper containers to bring each of your vegetables from the field into your wash area before you start harvesting. For instance, in order to prepare the soil for the seeds, the farmer would need a soil cultivator. The soil is warmed, weeds are suppressed, and the earth is stirred to ensure that the water is spread evenly, among other things.

Provide training for farm workers

Farmers need to provide training on the best agronomic practices every farmer must adopt. In doing so, farm labourers or the farmer adopts healthy ways of keeping crops.

Harvest the ones you want to sell only

“Given how much labor it takes to harvest vegetables on a regular basis, it’s important not to create more work than you need to by harvesting extra produce. Take a scale with you into the field so that you can weigh produce as you pick it instead of guessing as to whether you’ve picked enough,” Hobby Farms, stated.

Practice more of organic farming

Organic farming maintains and improves fertility, soil structure and biodiversity, and reduces erosion.

TODAY'S TIPS

Which crop is best for you if you intend to grow it, harvest it, and possibly sell it? You should consider the type of land you are farming, the climate, the crop's market demand and possibility for sale, as well as your available budget.

While beginning a garden from scratch can be expensive, it usually pays off the more you cultivate and harvest vegetables. However, some product is less expensive to raise than others.

Tomatoes, maize, zucchini and summer squash, leaf lettuce, green beans, herbs and berry bushes are easy to grow thus farmers can opt for these crops.

USE YOUR CLAY POTS FOR IRRIGATION, NOT JUST FLOWERS

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

Olla pronounced as (oh-y-a), is Spanish for clay pot and is one of the oldest irrigation systems to have been introduced in the world. Many believe it was introduced by the Hispanics and the conquistadors in America but it's worth noting that olla irrigation existed about 4000 years ago and was first started in North Africa and China, and later spread to various parts of the world.

Unlike drip irrigation, this form of irrigation does not require any technology or machines, making it the best choice for peasant farmers in remote areas as it is also inexpensive. The technique involves the use of low-fired, clay ceramic vessels also known as clay pots. These clay pots are buried in between plants with only the top opening above the soil surface.

The pots are then filled water and due to the porous nature of the olla, water is able to dissipate into the soil. Ollas have little pores, it is true water does not flow through them, but what makes this work is that, a suction force is created by the soil moisture tension and the plant roots.

What makes Olla irrigation better alternative to drip irrigation is, when the soil is dry, the water inside the olla will release faster as the soil roots "pull" it out. But if there is a recent saturating rainfall the water in the olla will remain until the surrounding soil dries.

Thus, this type of irrigation is extremely water-efficient as it helps save 60-70% of water preventing excessive evaporation and water runoff. With ollas, soil and roots do not go through extreme drying and wetting cycles which is particularly beneficial to prevent bitter tasting greens, a challenge to gardening in arid regions. The consistent water also prevents cracks developing in tomatoes or melons which form if plants receive abundant and then scarce water.

Also, with olla irrigation, soil surface remains relatively dry in gardens which can prevent the growth of weeds and also helps minimize some unwanted insect populations. As the issue of climate change and droughts continue to persist in our world today, let's use our clay pots for olla irrigation, not just flowers.



Agrotech développe des technologies en faveur de l'agriculture africaine

Par Yosua Domedjui

Le continent africain connaît, un progrès sensible en termes de l'implication de la technologie en agriculture. Agrotech présente le festival de l'innovation.

Parlant des prêts en Afrique, seulement 2% vont vers l'agriculture. Les banques de leurs côtés voient risqué d'investir dans le secteur agricole.

Avec une population très jeune, l'utilisation des nouveaux outils permettent de passer outre les financements traditionnels. Amélioration des nouvelles technologies pour augmenter les rendements et obtenir des conseils scientifiques.

Des nouvelles technologies comme DigiCow qui permet aux agriculteurs laitiers d'enregistrer les données de production de lait de leurs vaches.


Ladite application créer est utiliser par 60 000 exploitants agricoles et il ne nécessite par l'utilisation d'un smartphone car l'appli peut être utiliser par des données et par SMS.

DigiCow, a gagné le prix « Ayute Africa », DigiCow espère atteindre 500 000 producteurs laitiers cette année en raison des 1,5 million de dollars du prix partagé avec les autres gagnants du prix.



Microsoft au service du développement agricole

Par Yosua Domedjui



Ces dernières années, l'Afrique a connu une augmentation significative de l'adoption de la technologie numérique dans diverses industries, y compris l'agriculture. Comme l'un des secteurs les plus critiques pour l'économie du continent, l'agriculture a été au centre de plusieurs initiatives de transformation numérique, Microsoft étant à l'avant-garde de cette transformation.

L'initiative de Microsoft dans le secteur agricole sénégalais illustre parfaitement comment la technologie numérique peut avoir un impact positif sur la vie des agriculteurs en Afrique. En partenariat avec le gouvernement sénégalais et l'organisation à but non lucratif AGRA (Alliance pour une révolution verte en Afrique), Microsoft fournit des outils et des ressources numériques pour aider les petits agriculteurs à accroître leur productivité et leurs rendements.

Le projet, connu sous le nom de « carrefour AgriStack », est une plateforme fonuagique qui donne aux agriculteurs accès à de l'information et des ressources pertinentes, y compris des mises à jour météorologiques, des prix du marché et des pratiques agricoles exemplaires. La plateforme utilise également l'intelligence artificielle et l'apprentissage automatique pour offrir des recommandations personnalisées aux agriculteurs en fonction de leurs besoins et défis spécifiques.

La plateforme a déjà été mise à l'essai avec 25 000 agriculteurs au Sénégal, et les résultats ont été impressionnants. Selon Microsoft, les agriculteurs qui ont utilisé la plate-forme ont vu une augmentation moyenne de 30% de leurs rendements. De plus, la plateforme a permis aux agriculteurs de mieux gérer leurs cultures, de réduire le gaspillage et d'augmenter leurs profits en vendant leurs produits à des prix équitables.

Le projet AgriStack Hub n'est pas la seule initiative entreprise par Microsoft dans le secteur agricole africain. L'entreprise s'est également associée à divers organismes et gouvernements du continent pour offrir des solutions numériques aux petits agriculteurs. Par exemple, le projet "FarmBeats" de Microsoft, qui utilise des capteurs et des analyses de données pour fournir aux agriculteurs des informations en temps réel sur leurs cultures, a été mis en œuvre au Kenya, en Tanzanie et en Éthiopie.

Market Analysis of Cassava Starch In Thailand

The market prices of cassava starch have reduced slightly over the last month. The price ranges from 525-530 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 (3,627.80 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 WWWW offered 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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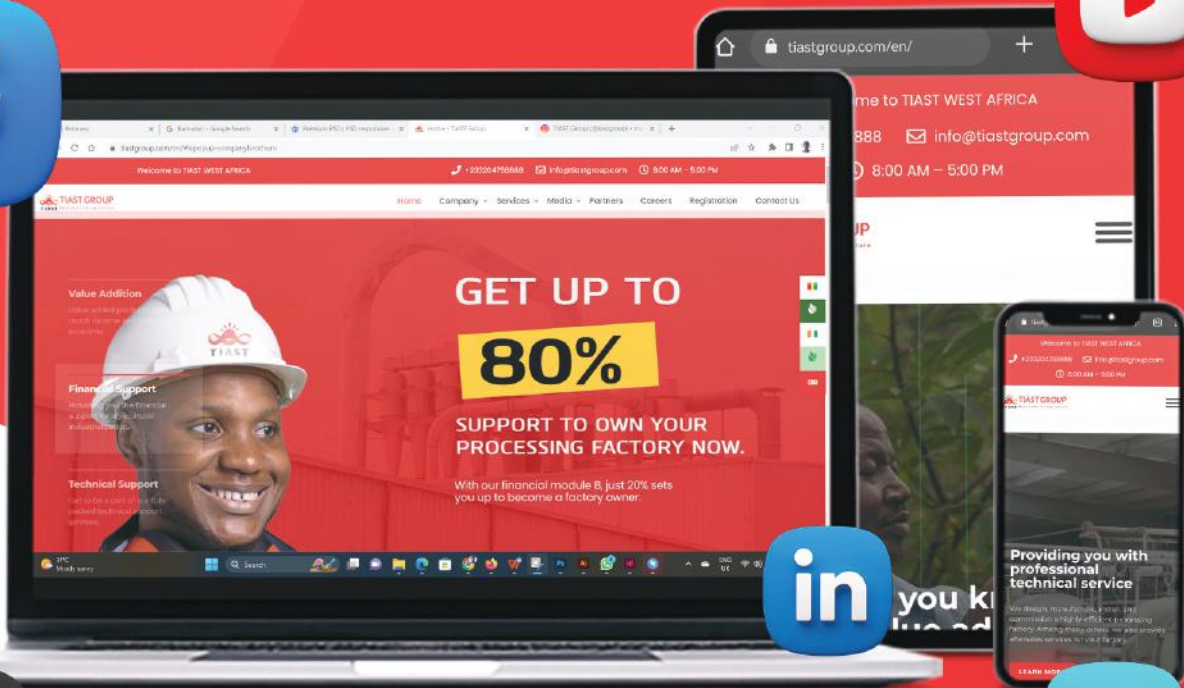
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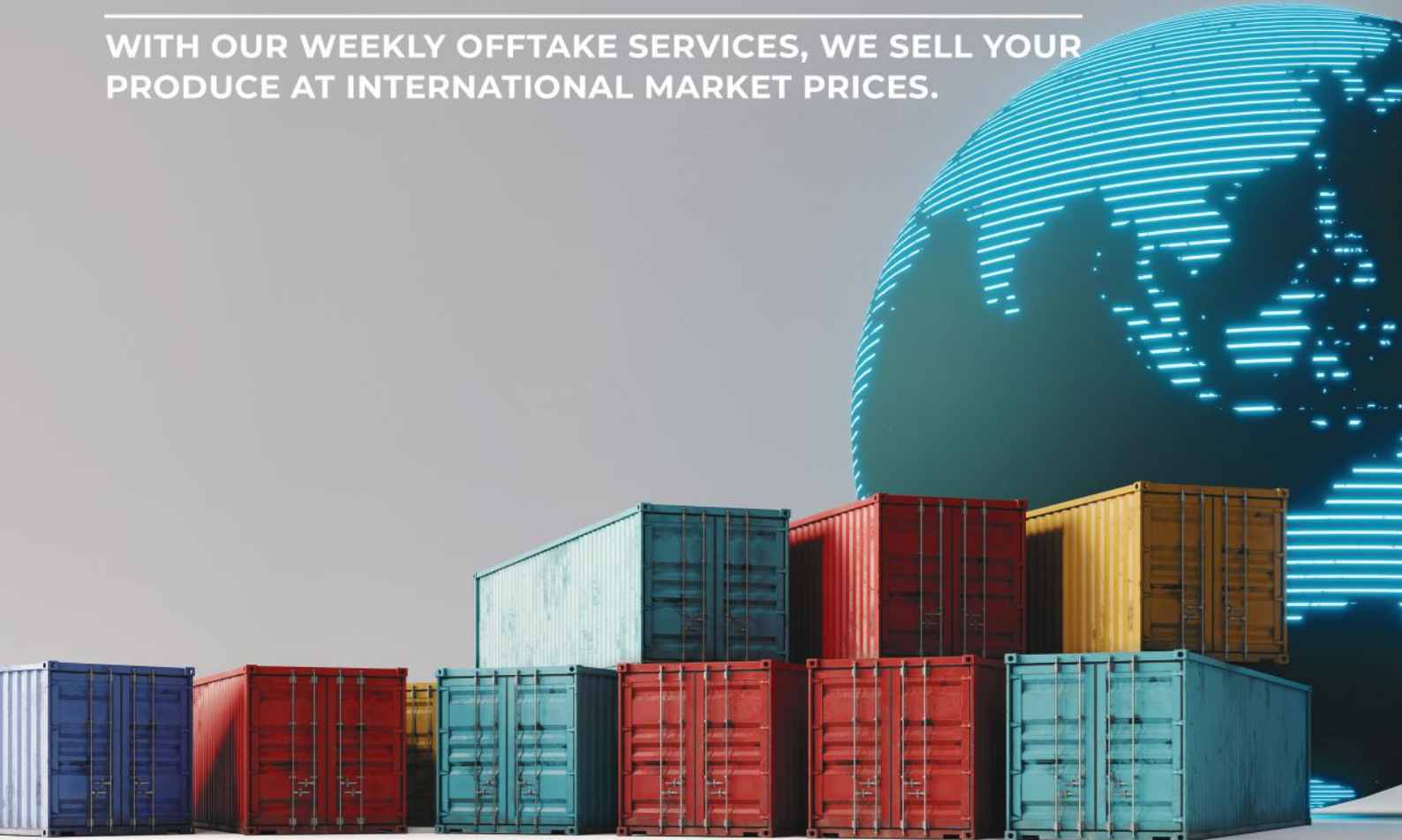
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