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Développez le numérique pour l'agriculture au Rwanda

ARTICLE

A Call to Agriculture

RURAL SOIL TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

DR. CHARLES KWOWE NYAABA - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PFIG

JUNE 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.

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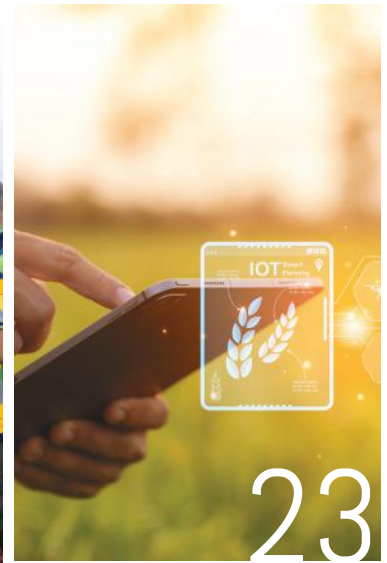
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Building Africa's Future: The Need for Agricultural Industrialization

Africa, known for its vast natural resources and fertile lands, holds immense potential to become a global powerhouse in agriculture. To unlock this potential and drive sustainable development, there is a pressing need to prioritize agricultural industrialization. By leveraging modern technologies, increasing investment, and fostering innovation, Africa can transform its agricultural sector into a catalyst for economic growth, poverty reduction, and food security.

Employment Generation

Agricultural industrialization has the potential to create a multitude of job opportunities, particularly in rural areas where a majority of the population relies on farming for their livelihoods. By promoting agribusinesses, agro-processing industries, and value chains, Africa can foster entrepreneurship, attract investments, and generate employment across the entire agricultural value chain.

“The need to build Africa through agricultural industrialization is not just a matter of economic progress, but a pathway to create a sustainable and prosperous future for the continent.”

Food Security and Nutrition

Africa is home to a significant proportion of the world's undernourished population. Agricultural industrialization can play a pivotal role in ensuring food security and improving nutrition outcomes. By investing in research and development, adopting climate-smart agricultural practices, and promoting sustainable farming, Africa can boost crop yields, diversify production, and enhance the availability of nutritious food.

Sustainable Development

Agricultural industrialization aligned with sustainable practices can lead to long-term development in Africa. By embracing agro-ecology, promoting organic farming, and adopting eco-friendly approaches, Africa can mitigate the environmental impact of agriculture, conserve natural resources, and protect biodiversity.

Conclusion

The need to build Africa through agricultural industrialization is not just a matter of economic progress, but a pathway to create a sustainable and prosperous future for the continent.



By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Cherimoya

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

Cherimoya is also known as custard apple and comes in two varieties called, *Annona cherimoya* and *Annona reticulata*.

Origin

Cherimoya belongs to the Annonaceae family together with soursop and is native to the Andes Mountains of South America but is largely grown in Spain and cultivated in other parts of the world including Mediterranean and Caribbean.

Description

It is a heart-shaped green tropical fruit very similar to soursop with a sweet taste and creamy texture. However, it is not difficult distinguishing the two as cherimoya is medium-sized and smooth while soursop is larger with sharper spikes than the latter.

Health Benefits

Good for the eyes

Cherimoya is rich in lutein which works as a light fiber that protects the eye from light damage. Thus, consuming cherimoya may help prevent eye diseases such as cataracts.

Lowers blood pressure

Potassium and magnesium present in cherimoya keeps the blood vessels dilated and relaxed, causing a high blood pressure to fall.

Promotes the digestive system

It is high in fiber herby boosting your digestive system through regular bowel movement to reduce constipation and diarrhoea. Fiber also promotes the release of chain fatty acids (SCFAs) which are the main source of nutrition for colon cells.

Potential of fighting cancer

It contains antioxidants like epicatechin, catechin and epigallocatechin which have shown potential to inhibit cancer growth in the lab studies.



GIDA seeks Funding Support to Fix Broken Dyke at Okyereko Irrigation Scheme

By Prince Opoku Dogbey



The Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA) has announced that it is seeking for funding support to fix a protective dyke, noted to prevent rice fields from flooding at the Okyereko rice irrigation scheme, in the Gomoa East District of the Central Region.

This appeal for funding support was made known when the Acting Chief Executive Officer of GIDA, Ing. Richard Oppong-Boateng led a team of officials from the Authority to pay a visit to the irrigation scheme.

The broken dyke has compelled farmers to do single cropping instead of twice or thrice a season.

He made an appeal for financial assistance from private and developmental organizations, expressing that once the funding is secured, work will commence promptly.

“GIDA seeks funding support to fix broken dyke at the Okyereko rice irrigation scheme in the Central Region.”

Ing. Oppong-Boateng stated that the GIDA technical team has conducted studies and cost analysis for rehabilitation of the dyke.

“We were here about three months ago to look at the structure and validate the earlier designs, so from here we would come with another team to look at the structure and come out with the bills of quantities for the work,” he disclosed.

He indicated that it is expected that farmers in the area should upscale rice production from the current 8000 metric tons to a maximum capacity of 16,000 metric tons.

He disclosed that the broken dyke has affected the production yields of rice farmers in the area.

This particular area needs funding support because the only farmer who was able to produce 8 tons per hectare cultivates rice on the Okyereko irrigation scheme, hence the need to support the rehabilitation of the dyke.



Tanzania: Sunflower farmers call for more education on quality seeds

By Jessica Meledi

As the government of Tanzania has significantly increased its agriculture budget, sunflower farmers in the Southern Highlands regions, particularly Njombe, Mbeya, and Songwe, have asked the government to continue involving various stakeholders in providing education on the use of quality seeds to increase production of such a strategic crop.

In 2023/24, the ministry's budget increased to 970.8 billion, up from 751.1 billion in the previous year, which is an increase of 29.24%.

"Education on the use of quality seeds is of great importance to us as it will lead to positive results in production, so the government must continue to partner with various agricultural stakeholders to strengthen the provision of education among farmers," a resident of Wanging'ombe village in Njombe region, Ms. Brownness Chengula, appealed.

The residents made a plea during a media tour organised by the Agricultural Markets Development Trust (ADMT).

ADMT, which was established by the governments of Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, and Switzerland, has organised the tour to visit various strategic partners and beneficiaries of the sunflower seeds project in the Southern Highland regions.

The visit is part of an assessment of the impact of its \$5 billion investment in facilitating various interventions intended to transform the sunflower and pulse sub-sectors in the country. In particular, Ms. Chengula encouraged other small farmers in the country to use quality-researched seeds to increase productivity and raise their income.

"I encourage the farmers to stop 'business as usual' and instead use researched and quality seeds to increase production. Quality seeds are more beneficial than traditional ones," she said.

In a related development, she asked the government to ensure the extension officers visit small farmers regularly so that they can identify various challenges facing them and find solutions.

Ms. Chengula's comment was in line with other AMDT beneficiaries at Mayale village in the Njombe region.

Ms. Zuhura Mpinga, an owner of a sunflower and maize mill, also underscored the importance of using quality seeds.

"For a farmer who uses quality seeds with an average weight of 100 kg, he or she can process 40 litres of pure sunflower oil, unlike the local seed, which can only extract 24 litres of pure oil from the same kilograms," she underlined.

Côte d'Ivoire, Vietnam to strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Vietnam and Côte d'Ivoire have agreed to strengthen their collaboration in the agricultural sector and facilitate trade in commodities such as cashew, cotton, and cocoa.

This decision was reached during discussions between National Assembly Chairman and President of Côte d'Ivoire's National Assembly, Adama Bictogo, held during the latter's recent visit to Vietnam.

He reaffirmed Vietnam's unwavering commitment to fostering cooperation with Africa and specifically emphasized the importance of collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire.

Acknowledging Vietnam's growing prominence on the global stage, President Adama Bictogo lauded Vietnam as a shining example of success and resilience.

He highlighted Vietnam's role as a model and source of inspiration for many countries in their efforts to combat poverty and underdevelopment.

A key aspect of their agreement involves facilitating the entry of each country's specialty products into the respective markets. They aim to create optimal conditions for these products to penetrate and thrive.

The National Assembly Chairman reiterated Vietnam's commitment to serving as a gateway for Ivorian goods to access Southeast Asian and Asian markets. Moreover, Vietnam expressed its willingness to collaborate with Côte d'Ivoire to increase imports of cashew nuts, cotton, and cocoa.

He also expressed a desire to expand the exchange of various commodities between Vietnam and Côte d'Ivoire. Notably, Vietnam is keen to strengthen trade in seafood, fertilizers, textiles, footwear, household goods, construction materials, and electronics. Furthermore, Vietnam seeks to bolster its rice exports to Côte d'Ivoire.

Both parties agreed that economic and trade cooperation serves as a fundamental pillar of their bilateral relations, with a focus on mutual benefit and development.

“The two nations are dedicated to enhancing economic ties by promoting trade in key products, facilitating market access, and expanding the range of commodities exchanged.”





Biodiversity loss and its impact to Food Security

By Jessica Meledi

Imagine a world with no rice, no maize, no coffee, and no guarantee against hunger. Or a world without crops like cotton, which we depend heavily on for clothing, or plants we use in producing modern medicines. This is what we may face in the years to come if the issue of biodiversity loss is not addressed.

Simply put, less biodiversity means fewer plants, animals, and microorganisms that are critical to pollination, cleaning water, and keeping soil fertile. That makes it harder for the agriculture industry to grow the crops that are needed to feed our ever-growing population.

Biodiversity sustains the quality of the air and soils, distributes fresh water, regulates the climate, provides pollination and pest control, absorbs carbon emissions, and reduces the impact of natural hazards. Biodiversity also supports the world's food system.

This means that biodiversity and food security are connected. However, farming and agricultural methods, as well as our industrial practises, are accelerating biodiversity loss. Many agricultural and industrial practises cause deforestation, pol-

lution of groundwater, and the loss of wetlands. The driver of biodiversity loss for food and agriculture loss cited by most reporting countries is changes in land and water use and management, followed by pollution, exploitation, overharvesting, climate change, population growth, and urbanisation.

Your morning cup of coffee may be at risk due to biodiversity loss. According to a recent study by Science Advances, at least 60% of the world's 124 species of wild coffee are on the edge of extinction as a result of biodiversity loss.

While the rise in biodiversity-friendly practises is encouraging, more needs to be done to stop the loss of biodiversity in food and agriculture. To avert the impact of biodiversity loss on food and agriculture, farmers must reduce the use of harmful pesticides and fertilizers on their farms.

They can adopt the composting method. A great effort has to be put in to educate everyone about biodiversity loss and its impact, especially those in the agriculture sector. Consumers should also only opt for sustainably grown organic food products in order for other producers to farm sustainably.

The Transformative Role of Weather Stations in Agriculture

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Weather is a critical factor in agricultural planning and decision-making. To optimize crop production, manage resources effectively, and mitigate risks, farmers rely on accurate and timely weather information. Weather stations have emerged as invaluable tools in the agricultural sector, providing precise meteorological data and insights that empower farmers to make informed choices and enhance their farming practices.

Climate Change Adaptation

As climate change continues to impact agricultural systems, weather stations play a vital role in helping farmers adapt to changing conditions. By analyzing long-term weather data, farmers can identify trends and patterns, allowing them to anticipate climate-related risks such as extreme weather events or shifts in precipitation patterns.

Real-Time Weather Monitoring

Weather stations are equipped with sensors and instruments that measure and record various meteorological parameters such as temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind speed, and solar radiation. This real-time weather monitoring enables farmers to gain a comprehensive understanding of their local weather conditions. By having access to accurate and up-to-date data, farmers can make informed decisions regarding planting, irrigation, fertilization, and pest management.

Optimized Resource Management

Weather stations play a vital role in optimizing the management of agricultural resources. With accurate weather data, farmers can make informed decisions regarding irrigation scheduling. By understanding the rainfall patterns and evapotranspiration rates, farmers can determine the ideal timing and amount of water required for their crops, reducing water wastage and maximizing water-use efficiency.

Enhanced Crop Protection

Weather stations facilitate proactive crop protection and disease management. By monitoring weather patterns, farmers can anticipate disease and pest outbreaks.

Weather stations have revolutionized the agricultural landscape, empowering farmers with the critical weather information necessary for optimizing crop production, resource management, and crop protection.



The Remarkable benefits of Indoor Plants

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

In addition to improving the aesthetics of your home and office spaces, live indoor plants have at immense benefits you may not be aware of.

Many individuals have live plants at their homes and offices just to enhance the overall appearance of the office or home environment, however, studies demonstrate that plants have the following benefits when put in the home space:

Mood Improvement

There's just something about getting in touch with nature. It has a certain allure which could alleviate the mood of the downhearted. When one is moody, they take a stroll outdoors or in the park to uplift their mood.

This may support the theory which suggests that it is in our human DNA to be connected and in sync with nature and other living things.

According to studies, spending time in green spaces can reduce mental fatigue, keep us relaxed and calm and also prevent mental weariness.

However, since most of our time is spent indoors due to work, school and the recent COVID-19 pandemic which kept us locked in our houses, indoor plants then come to the rescue. Keeping indoor plants gives you a sense and feel of nature, keeping you relaxed.

Helps improve the Environment

There is no denying that plants kept indoors in homes and offices add to the beauty of the space. They also help improve the air quality in our indoor settings, since plants provide oxygen. Our shared air-conditioned homes and offices are often polluted with airborne toxins and pollutant gases emitted from building materials, mechanical equipment, and even one another.

Therapeutic to Care for

Maintaining plants is thought to be therapeutic since doing so provides people a sense of fulfillment and purpose while also enhancing their focus and creativity.

Here are some excellent indoor plants to consider for your office or home space.

The rubber plant is excellent for creative spaces since it reduces distracting noises and has a relaxing impact on musical spaces. It works well indoors as well. Studies show that the pothos plant can help with odor elimination as well as relieve eye irritation for those who spend long days staring at a screen. Aloe vera, bonsai plants, and snake plants are a few more examples.



Harnessing Digital Solutions for Agricultural Advancement in Africa

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

In today's digital age, technology has become a transformative force in various sectors, and agriculture is no exception. Africa, with its vast agricultural potential, can leverage digital solutions to revolutionize farming practices, enhance productivity, and foster sustainable agricultural development.

Digital technologies such as remote sensing, GPS, and data analytics have paved the way for precision farming in Africa. Through satellite imagery and drone technology, farmers can gather real-time data on soil moisture levels, crop health, and nutrient deficiencies. This enables precise resource allocation, targeted application of fertilizers and pesticides, and optimized irrigation practices.

Mobile technology has transformed the way farmers access information and connect with markets. Mobile applications provide valuable insights on weather forecasts, pest control, crop management practices, and market prices. Farmers can make informed decisions regarding planting, harvesting, and marketing their produce.



Digital platforms have opened up new avenues for agricultural finance and market access. E-commerce platforms connect farmers to a broader customer base, enabling them to sell their products online. These platforms also facilitate access to credit, insurance, and financial services tailored for the agricultural sector. Digital payment systems provide secure and transparent transactions, reducing risks associated with cash handling and improving financial inclusion for farmers.

Conclusion

The adoption of digital solutions in agriculture is a transformative pathway for Africa's agricultural advancement. By embracing precision farming, leveraging mobile applications, expanding e-commerce platforms, and embracing data-driven decision making, Africa can unleash its agricultural potential, empower farmers, and ensure food security for its growing population.



The Green Revolution

The Green Revolution, which took place from the 1940s to the 1970s, led to significant advancements in crop farming, including the development of high-yielding crop varieties, improved irrigation techniques, and the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Moringa Juice

The juice extracted from moringa leaves is packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. It has a mild, earthy flavor and is believed to have numerous health benefits.



RURAL SOIL TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

By Jessica Meledi

One of the major contributing organizations to Ghana's agriculture and food production is the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG). Leading this important stakeholder in Ghana's agriculture space is Dr. Charles Kwowe Nyaaba, Executive Director of the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana.

Speaking with him in an interview, he defined peasant farmers as "Farmers who produce between one and five acres of farmland. Most of these farmers are located in rural areas and are mostly into food crop production, but there are a few who combine farming food crops with rearing livestock. These farmers are actually rated among the poorest in Ghanaian society, notwithstanding that they contribute about 80% of the country's food production and are key stakeholders in achieving food security in the country".

Speaking about his organization, Dr. Nyaaba explains that the PFAG was established in 2005 with the aim of bringing together farmers to empower themselves and advocate for change in the policies and practices that perpetuate their poverty and hinder their progress towards achieving food and income security. Speaking about advocating for change, the Executive Director stated that there are a number of challenges confronting small-

holder farmers in Ghana that need to be addressed.

"A serious problem facing small-scale farmers in Ghana is the acquisition of financial support from the formal financial sector, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. We rely on friends, families, and informal financial institutions like microfinance and what have you. After the banking clean-up, it has also been difficult to acquire funds from them," he said.

Furthermore, he stated that some other challenges confronting smallholder farmers were inadequate labour, especially due to the fact that many youths are not interested in agriculture. Also, a lack of quality inputs like seed, fertilizer, and proper machinery to farm and harvest crops is a huge problem for them.

Touching on the issue of climate change, he mentioned that climate change is a serious threat to agricultural development in the country and the youth's adoption of farming as a business. For him as a farmer, in the past decade, the rain pattern has changed drastically. "For instance, in June 2022, farmers in the northern part of the country received rain, but in the middle of July, the rain stopped completely. It came in the first week of August, and most of

those who planted had to plough their farms again and replant as a result of climate change," he lamented.

To provide a solution for farmers to combat climate change and address the varied challenges affecting smallholder farmers, Dr. Nyaaba stated that his outfit is doing its bit by training extension officers, who are in turn training more peasant farmers in the country on the best sustainable way of farming using technology. Another laudable thing PFAG has done is collaborate with some input supply companies that supply the farmers with quality seeds and fertilizers, and they are also currently working with organization services.

For Farmer Charles, Ghana's agriculture sector has improved over the years, but there is more to be done, and the challenges farmers face can be addressed if more money is allocated in the budget to drive all those changes they want implemented.

"Now, budget allocation to the agriculture sector is less than two percent. What will that do? The government can change the face of the agriculture sector by increasing the budget and improving the Planting for Food and Jobs programme so more investment can be made in farmers to improve the sector".





Profile

Dr. Charles Nyaaba who prefers to be called Farmer Charles, is a farmer who started farming at a young age with his family but grew up pursuing his passion for farming and agriculture. He is currently spearheading the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana as the Executive Director. He also has his own personal farms where he produces maize, rice, and sorghum and also rears livestock. He also supplies inputs and fertilizers. Dr. Nyaaba can be referred to as a professional farmer because he not only practically engages in farming but also has a doctorate degree in agribusiness from the University of Ghana Legon. Dr. Nyaaba served at the office of the Peasant Farmers Association during his national service and has since been a part of the organization. He also taught agribusiness at the undergraduate level at the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UNER).

***Dr. Charles
Kwowe
Nyaaba -
Executive
Director,
PFAG***

Cherimoya Smoothie

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

Cherimoya smoothie is a delicious and refreshing beverage made from the pulp of the cherimoya fruit. Cherimoya, also known as the "custard apple," is a tropical fruit with a creamy, custard-like texture and a subtly sweet and tangy flavor.



Procedure

- Slice the cherimoyas in half and scoop its content (without seeds) with a spoon into your blender.
- Add the unsweetened vanilla almond milk and blend.
- Garnish with the chopped pistachios

Ingredients

- 2 ripe cherimoyas
- Unsweetened vanilla almond milk
- Half cup of chopped pistachios



A Call to Agriculture

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

The agricultural sector, recognized as the fundamental pillar of every economy, holds promising prospects for long-term sustainability. Given its undeniable significance, it becomes imperative for agricultural institutions and developmental partners, particularly media organizations, to actively emphasize and advocate for the importance of agriculture.

Many people might believe that the lack of activity in the industry is to blame, but that couldn't be further from the reality. The agriculture industry is seeing a lot of activity that needs to be publicized. The sector is currently witnessing advanced technologies, introduction of new crop varieties and a number of challenges that need the attention of appropriate authorities yet there are not many agricultural journalists to take on this cause.

Climate change for instance poses a huge threat for farmers as the change in weather patterns bring out droughts and heavy rainfalls

that may cause a decrease in yields or damages crops. Due to how unpredictable the seasons have become, farmers are no longer able to tell when to expect the rains or cultivate, so they rely on the meteorology department to help them decide best times for cultivating.

However, if these weather reports are not widely publicized by the media, how do farmers in rural areas who do not have access to the internet learn about them?

Despite the low attention paid by the media to agriculture, the agricultural sector is often referred to as the backbone of the company as it contributes about 60% to the country's GDP, employing almost 40% of the population, and also playing a pivotal role in poverty reduction, food security and development.

Thus, the media showing its lenses on the sector will ensure advocacy on modern farming practices which will boost productivity.

Journalists have the power to raise

awareness about soil erosion, water management, climate change adaptation strategies and host shows with experts to educate farmers.

Keeping our farmers informed and educated will improve farming practices hereby boosting productivity and development.

Also, the media could help improve the image of the agriculture sector by using our media platform to interview farmers, relay their concerns to the proper authorities, and discuss technological developments in the agriculture sector.

The media's coverage of the country's arable lands and the project's benefits may entice more people to participate, including investors and young individuals who will contribute significantly to the sector. The sector that feeds us and is responsible for our very existence, needs us, and is calling on journalists to extend a helping hand, would you answer?

Subject : _____

Date : / /

The Dying Seed Poem

In the fields where dreams once bloomed so bright,
Where life embraced the golden light,

A tale of toil and need,
The saga of the dying seed.

Upon the Land,
Where hope took roots,
A farmer's calloused hands did suit,
With tender care and endless toil,
Nurturing soil to yield and foil,

Yet shadows cast upon the land,
As progress loomed,
A heartless hand,

The urban sprawl begun to creep,
And suffocate the soil so deep.

For in the heart of every seed,
Lies the future that we all need,
To feed the hungry mouths of man,
And nurture life's eternal plan.

Let's heed the pleas of a dying seed,
And sow the seeds of love and heed
Embrace the earth, with reverence deep,
And let the dying seed, finally sleep!

— Poem By Jessica Meledi

Financing Agribusiness: The role of Financial Institutions

By Jessica Meledi

Small holder farmers make up a notable percentage of individuals employed in agriculture across developing regions. According to one study, there are an estimated 450 to 500 million estimated farmers in the world; most of these farmers reside in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Looking at the significant number of farmers in the agriculture sector, one would expect that finances is readily made available to these small holder farmers to improve their family conditions and social conditions however, this is not entirely so. If not most, many small holder farmers lack critical inputs that will unlock the gains in productivity and income. Financing is therefore important for small holders to gain access to these inputs.

Financing is a critical barrier for small holder farmers to access inputs that they need to increase crop yields and income. Lack of access to finance prevents many farmers from adopting new technology and improving their efficiency. With demand for food expected to increase by 60% by 2050, and the agriculture system already under pressure to provide with the current demand for food, the only way to improve the farming of small holder farmers who contribute majorly to the agriculture sector, is by investing financially into their farms. This will be the only way to increase produce more food by investing financially into sustainable technologies and climate smart agriculture so that farmers can produce more food with less of an environmental impact.

Even though financing agriculture especially small holder farmers present challenges for financial institutions like weather risk, crop concentration, price volatility increasing the credit risk for lenders among others.

To increase finance, donors and development finance institutions should increase the use of official finance to incentivize commercial banks and rural-focused financial institutions. Small holder farmers lack basic inputs like fertilizer, seeds, tools and equipment they also suffer from significant post-harvest loss because of lack of proper storage and investing in their business and farmers will help them improve their farming systems to increase production and bring in profit which will in turn, improve their condition of living.



TODAY'S TIPS

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a holistic approach to pest control in crop farming that emphasizes the use of multiple strategies to manage pests effectively while minimizing the reliance on chemical pesticides. It involves a combination of preventive measures, cultural practices, biological control methods, and the targeted use of pesticides only when necessary.

Preventive measures in IPM include selecting pest-resistant crop varieties, implementing proper sanitation practices, and maintaining healthy soil and plant nutrition. By choosing resistant varieties, farmers can reduce the vulnerability of their crops to specific pests and diseases. Sanitation practices, such as removing crop residues and weed management, help eliminate potential breeding grounds for pests.

Cultural practices, such as crop rotation and intercropping, can disrupt pest life cycles and reduce pest populations. These practices also promote biodiversity, providing habitats for natural enemies of pests.



Agribusiness: Powering Economic Growth and Resilience

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Agribusiness plays a vital role in driving economic growth and stability worldwide. As a sector that encompasses various activities such as farming, processing, marketing, and distribution of agricultural products, agribusiness contributes significantly to job creation, income generation, and food security.

The agribusiness sector serves as an engine for economic development by stimulating rural economies, supporting livelihoods, and attracting investments. It provides employment opportunities for a large portion of the population, particularly in rural areas, where agriculture is a primary source of income. By creating jobs along the agricultural value chain, from farm laborers to processing plant workers, agribusiness helps reduce unemployment rates and alleviate poverty.

Moreover, agribusiness strengthens food security by ensuring a steady supply of nutritious and affordable food. It improves agricultural productivity through the adoption of modern farming techniques, advanced technologies, and efficient supply chain management. By facilitating the market linkages between farmers and consumers, agribusiness enhances market access and reduces post-harvest losses, thereby increasing farmers' incomes and contributing to overall economic growth.

Furthermore, the growth of agribusiness stimulates ancillary industries, such as agro-processing, packaging, transportation, and logistics. This leads to the development of a diverse range of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that contribute to economic diversification and resilience.

In conclusion, the agribusiness sector plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth, reducing poverty, and ensuring food security. Its impact extends beyond agriculture, creating employment opportunities, promoting rural development, and fostering economic resilience. Policy support, investments in infrastructure, and capacity-building initiatives are essential to unleash the full potential of agribusiness and harness its positive impact on the economy.



Soutenir le secteur agricole du Sénégal

Par Yosua Domedjui

Les banques ont engagé 100 milliards de FCFA dans ces subventions. Les financements bancaires, souvent refusés pour éviter les problèmes de crédit, sont extrêmement rares.

Cependant, des fonds de sécurisation du crédit rural seront mis en place pour soutenir jusqu'à 46% des prêts accordés par le secteur bancaire.

En outre, un fonds de calamité et un fonds de subvention seront créés. C'est lors de la 39^{ème} réunion du Conseil national du crédit, présidée pour la première fois depuis 2012 par le ministre des Finances et du Budget Mamadou Moustapha Bâ, que la nouvelle a été annoncée.

Récemment, le gouvernement sénégalais a déclaré que 100 milliards de francs CFA de subventions seraient accordés au secteur agricole. Ce choix permettra aux agriculteurs locaux de bénéficier d'une aide financière vitale, dans le but de promouvoir la croissance de l'agriculture dans le pays.

En plus de ce plan, les banques du pays ont promis de financer les subventions à hauteur de 100 milliards de francs CFA. Cependant, les banques n'ont offert qu'un montant relativement faible de capital jusqu'à présent en raison des inquiétudes concernant les risques de crédit. Des fonds de garantie des prêts ruraux seront mis en place pour garantir jusqu'à 46 % des prêts accordés par le secteur bancaire afin de résoudre ce problème.

Le ministre des Finances et du Budget, Mamadou Moustapha Bâ, a présidé la 39^{ème} réunion du Conseil national du crédit au cours de laquelle cette décision a été prise. Il faut souligner que ces actions de relance du secteur agricole se font pour la première fois depuis 2012 à l'occasion de ce sommet.

Outre la création de fonds de titrisation des crédits ruraux, des fonds supplémentaires pour les catastrophes et des fonds de bonus seront également mis en place. Ces fonds supplémentaires permettront de renforcer l'assistance financière et de réduire les risques liés aux prêts aux agriculteurs.

Le secteur agricole est crucial pour l'économie sénégalaise, car il emploie une grande partie de la main-d'œuvre et contribue à assurer la sécurité alimentaire du pays. Cependant, de nombreux agriculteurs peinent à obtenir le financement nécessaire pour développer leurs activités et adopter des méthodes agricoles plus modernes.

En conclusion, l'engagement du gouvernement sénégalais de consacrer 100 milliards de FCFA au secteur agricole sous forme de subventions est une étape essentielle dans la promotion du développement agricole dans le pays. Le gouvernement entend promouvoir une croissance durable du secteur agricole et améliorer les conditions de vie des agriculteurs sénégalais en combinant cet engagement financier avec la mise en place de fonds de garantie et d'appui supplémentaires.



Clemence Uwamutarambirwa a d'abord choisi Musanze, la région la plus montagneuse de cette nation d'Afrique de l'Est, car l'appauvrissement des sols y est amplifié par la pression démographique, les dangers climatiques (tels que les inondations) et la pollution chimique, mettant en péril les moyens de subsistance de près de 368 000 habitants. L'ingénieur explique que les capteurs envoient des avertissements ou des alarmes (tentatives de vol) aux responsables des serres par l'intermédiaire d'une plateforme basée sur le cloud et fournissent des données pertinentes sur l'humidité du sol, par exemple.

La phase pilote de Green City Kigali pour une capitale verte a débuté au RWANDA.

Les petits agriculteurs rencontrent des difficultés environnementales comparables ailleurs, notamment dans la communauté isolée de Gahengeri, dans le district de Rwamagana. Par exemple, 2 000 agriculteurs reçoivent une formation en matière d'irrigation, de décorticage, d'administration des installations de stockage et de séchage, et d'autres compétences connexes.

Filiale du constructeur automobile sud-coréen Hyundai Moto, Green Light assure la formation et loue également du matériel agricole aux apprenants. Il s'agit d'une composante de l'engagement de l'entreprise en matière de responsabilité environnementale au Rwanda.

Une solution numérique peut contribuer à renforcer les pratiques agricoles et la résilience climatique dans de nombreuses villes, à commencer par Musanze, à 98 kilomètres de Kigali, alors même que les inondations au Rwanda dévastent les cultures.

“Smart Potato Greenhouse Technology (SPGT). C'est l'application développée au Rwanda par Clemence Uwamutarambirwa pour promouvoir l'agriculture intelligente face au climat (AAC), notamment dans le district de Musanze,

Développez le numérique pour l'agriculture au Rwanda

Par Yosua Domedjui

à l'est du pays. Selon cette étudiante de 24 ans, cette solution utilise des capteurs pour "déterminer la qualité et la température du sol et automatiser l'irrigation »

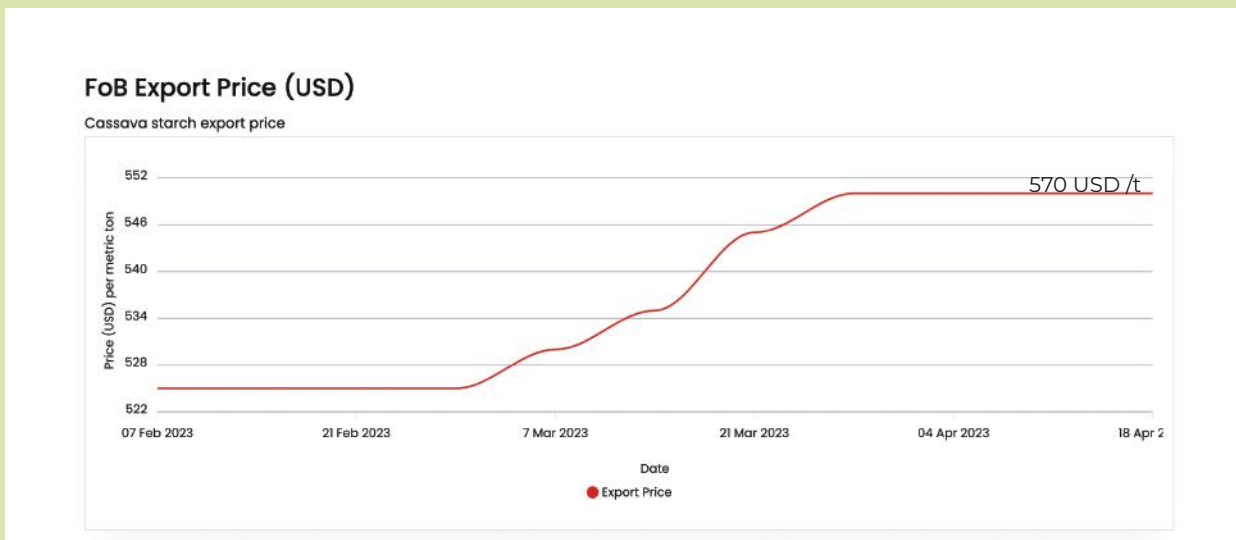
Afin d'atteindre les objectifs de développement durable (ODD), l'effort fait appel à la technologie. Parmi eux, l'ODD 2, qui appelle à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire grâce à des méthodes de production agricole respectueuses de l'environnement. L'Université catholique du Rwanda (CUR), l'Agence suédoise de coopération internationale au développement (Sida) et l'Entité des Nations unies pour l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes (ONU Femmes) ont uni leurs forces pour promouvoir le SPGT dans ce cadre.



Market Analysis of Cassava Starch In Thailand

The market prices of cassava starch have reduced slightly over the last month. The price ranges from 560-570 US dollars/ton (4,076.58 yuan /ton). This week, the market price of cassava starch in Thailand’s tapioca starch quotation is FOB (Bangkok) 570 US dollars/ton (4,076.58 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 WWW 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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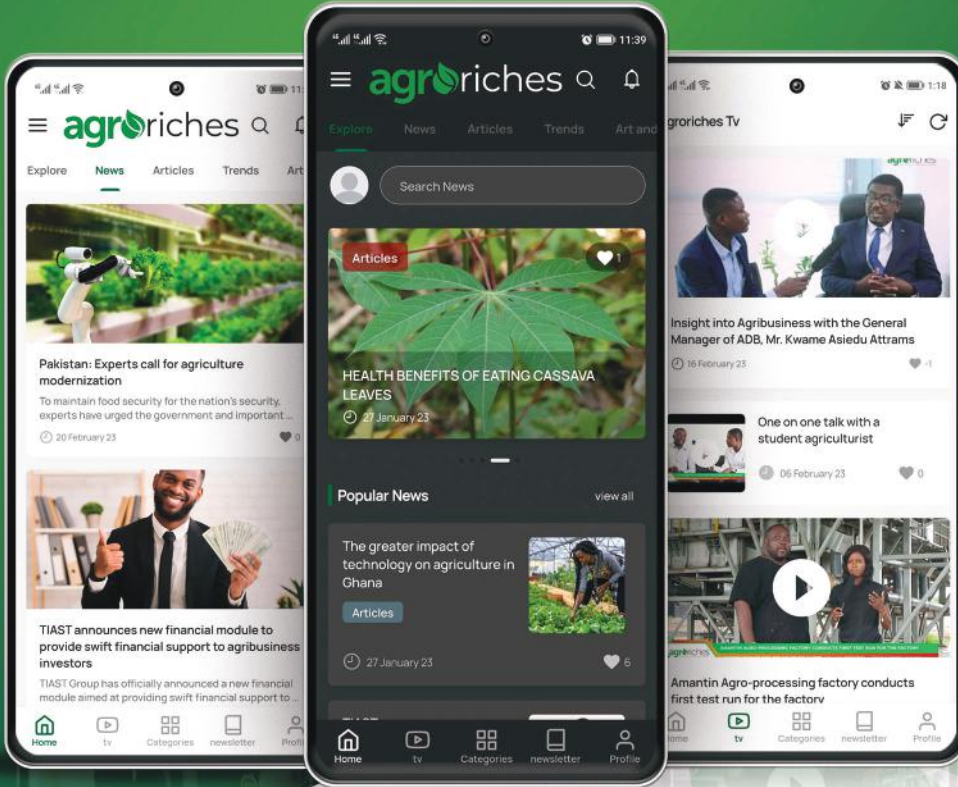
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