

agro**riches**

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GHANA TODAY

WFP Ghana organizes Youth link-up against hunger series

ARTICLE

Agriculture's Role in Employment Creation in Africa

NOTRE CHRONIQUE

Agriculture : L'utilisation des matières bio comme fertilisants en Chine

The Soil WHISPERER

NAA KOTEIKOR AMON - AGRONOMIST



JULY 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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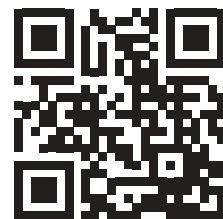
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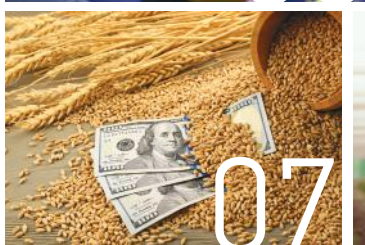
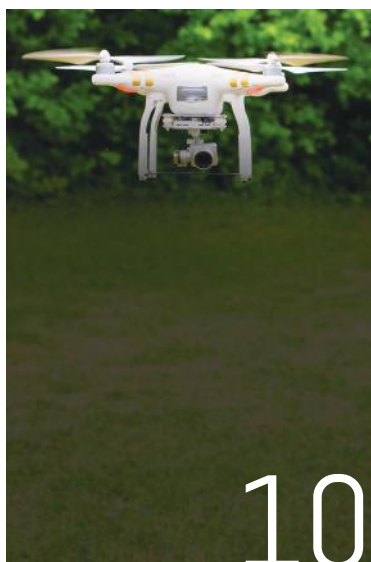
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Can Agriculture be the Way Forward in Rebuilding the Economy?

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

In times of economic uncertainty, the question of the way forward becomes paramount. As we search for a sturdy path to rebuild our nation's economy, there lies a hidden gem with untapped potential - agriculture.

It is high time we recognize the significance of investing more in the agricultural sector, as it holds the key to unlocking a sustainable and resilient economic future.

Agriculture has been the backbone of civilizations for centuries, nourishing nations and providing livelihoods to millions. However, in recent times, its importance has been overshadowed by rapid urbanization and industrialization. It's time to reevaluate our priorities and embrace agriculture as the cornerstone of our economic revival.

Investing in the agric sector goes beyond mere financial gain. It touches upon several crucial aspects. Firstly, bolstering agriculture means reducing food insecurity. With a growing global population, securing our food supply is paramount. By investing in modern farming techniques, research, and infrastructure, we can not only ensure food self-sufficiency but also become net exporters, boosting foreign exchange reserves.

Secondly, investing in agriculture directly addresses rural unemployment. Agriculture has the potential to create numerous jobs, reducing migration to already overcrowded urban centers. Empowering rural communities leads to balanced economic growth across the country.

Moreover, agriculture is intertwined with sustainable development. Responsible and eco-friendly farming practices can mitigate climate change and preserve our natural resources for future generations.

Furthermore, the agric sector serves as a catalyst for industrial growth. It provides raw materials for agro-processing industries, adding value to agricultural produce and spurring overall economic diversification.

To truly realize the potential of agriculture, governmental support is vital. Policymakers should provide farmers with improved access to credit, modern technologies, and efficient marketing channels. Investment in agricultural research and development is crucial to enhance crop yield and combat emerging challenges.

In conclusion, as we navigate the complexities of rebuilding our economy, let us not overlook the incredible possibilities that agriculture offers.



“Agriculture is intertwined with sustainable development”

aRaza fRUIT

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

ORIGIN

Araza is a fruit belonging to the guava family scientifically known as *Eugenia Stipitata* and is indigenous to Brazil and parts of Peru. It is also most productive when grown in the wild .

DESCRIPTION

It is quite small in size, round and yellow on the outside when ripe (or sometimes green). Araza also has a fleshy pulp and sour flavour and is quite acidic.

health Benefits

Controls Blood Pressure

The Araza fruit is a good source of essential vitamins, minerals, and nutrients. It is high in Vitamin C and contains calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium and iron which helps control blood pressure.

Prevents Cancer

It is rich in strong antioxidants such as terpene, among others therefore can inhibit the growth of tumor cell lines and protect cells from damage.

Keep bowels healthy

This fruit is rich in fiber which keeps the bowels healthy and decreases the probability of developing diverticular and constipation diseases.

Boosts Immunity

It is rich in Vitamin C which boosts immunity and protects the body against infections.



WFP Ghana organizes Youth link-up against hunger series

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

The World Food Programme (WFP), in line with its objective of ensuring food security in Ghana, held the "Youth Link-Up against Hunger" event to encourage young people to venture into entrepreneurship and employment along the agriculture value chain.

The event was held at the Impact Building Conference Room of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi on July 8, 2023.

Studies show that about 1.5 million Ghanaians, representing 4.5 percent of the population, suffer from food insecurity issues, and with the world's population estimated to hit 50 million by 2050, young individuals indulging in agriculture will not only improve our food production but will also promote rural development, generate employment opportunities, and encourage entrepreneurship, among others.

The event was facilitated by Enyonam Manye, an agricultural journalist and YouTuber, and four other young individuals who are all into agriculture and engaged with about 200 young individuals who attended the program.

These moderators shared their experiences and discussed opportunities in the sector and pertinent issues preventing youth inclusion and interest in the agricultural sector.

Samuel Abroquah, an agripreneur, advised his audience, saying, "Passion alone cannot drive business, you need to set a goal and apply discipline to drive your vision."

Maame Yaa Kame-Ofori, a Quality Assurance Officer, when asked how to maintain a quality standard considering financial constraints, answered, "Quality is not cheap! Quality is expensive."

But with quality, you increase your bargaining power, which will eventually pay off," she noted.

Closing the session, the Programme Policy Officer in charge of Gender and Youth Inclusion at the WFP Ghana Office, Ms. Tani Aduko Bukari, noted that the outcome of the Youth Link-Up against Hunger Series will inform WFP programming. She said that by investing in the next generation of farmers, the UN can help Ghana create a thriving and sustainable agricultural sector capable of meeting future challenges.

South Africa: Economist calls for more agricultural trade

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

In a bid to revitalize the agricultural sector and bolster economic growth, South Africa implemented the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) over a year ago.

The comprehensive strategy was envisioned as an inclusive approach to drive competitiveness, attract investments, foster inclusivity, and generate employment opportunities, with the ultimate goal of increasing the current 8% GDP contribution of agriculture and agro-processing.

Wandile Sihlobo, Chief Economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber (ABC) of South Africa, recently evaluated the progress and potential of the AAMP during a PSG Think Big webinar, moderated by acclaimed journalist Alishia Seckam. Sihlobo believes that the master plan remains viable, albeit requiring adjustments to suit the rapidly evolving local and global challenges.

The AAMP aims to unlock 10% to 15% growth in gross value added and create approximately one million jobs in primary agriculture and agro-processing. To achieve these ambitious targets, collaboration among key stakeholders is paramount.

Sihlobo underscored the importance of trade in the sector's success, particularly amidst geopolitical tensions

like the recent disputes between the US and South Africa.

Notably, South Africa's agricultural exports amount to \$12.8 billion, with the African market receiving the largest share at 40%. Asia follows at 27%, while the EU and the UK account for 20% and 4%, respectively. Despite the significance of the US market, Sihlobo highlights the EU as the primary market that demands nurturing of the relationship.

As South Africa forges ahead with the AAMP, it must adapt to the evolving complexities of the operating environment.

The plan should be treated as a recovery roadmap, emphasizing the need for cooperation, innovation, and agility to navigate the challenges that lie ahead. By nurturing trade relations and exploring new opportunities, the agricultural sector can not only contribute significantly to the nation's GDP but also create a resilient and prosperous future for the country and its citizens.



“Government, the private sector, labor, and communities must work hand in hand to explore opportunities for high-value commodities.”

New Zealand contributes US\$ 3.57 million to IFAD to enhance climate-smart agriculture

By Jessica Meledi

The International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Government of New Zealand signed a NZD 5.75 million (USD 3.57 million) agreement to support Pacific communities to ensure sustainable access to water and healthy diets.

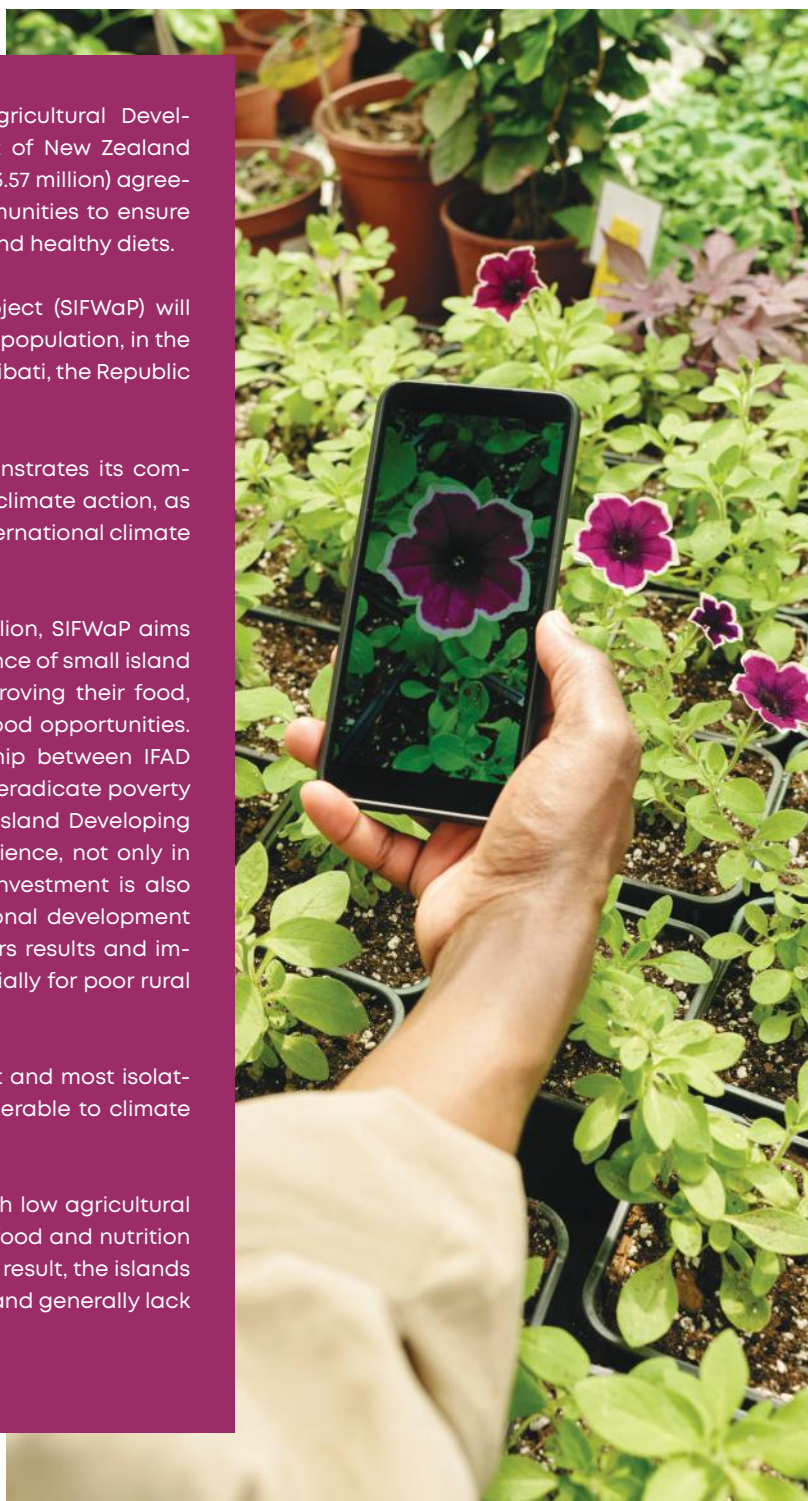
The Small Islands Food and Water Project (SIFWaP) will reach 50,000 people, or 17 percent of the population, in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu.

Aotearoa New Zealand's support demonstrates its commitment to increasing the impact of its climate action, as highlighted in Tuia te Waka a Kiwa, its international climate finance strategy.

With a total investment of USD 19.23 million, SIFWaP aims to strengthen the climate change resilience of small island communities in these countries by improving their food, nutrition, and water security and livelihood opportunities. SIFWaP reinforces the strong partnership between IFAD and New Zealand in their efforts to help eradicate poverty and hunger in rural areas of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and build adaptation resilience, not only in the Pacific but across the world. This investment is also a recognition of IFAD's role in international development as an effective organization that delivers results and improves food and income security, especially for poor rural people.

These countries are among the smallest and most isolated of the SIDS and are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts and natural disasters.

High population densities combined with low agricultural productivity contribute to a precarious food and nutrition security situation across the region. As a result, the islands are heavily dependent on food imports and generally lack access to fresh, nutritious food.



Harnessing the Power of Agroprocessing: Catalyzing Economic Growth in Ghana

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

In recent years, the call to "add value to agricultural produce" through agroprocessing has gained momentum in Ghana. Agricultural activists and stakeholders are urging farmers and investors to venture into agro-processing as a means to promote Ghanaian goods in the market.

As a country rich in raw materials like many other African nations, Ghana primarily exports or sells its agricultural produce in its raw form. However, the time has come to unlock the economic potential that lies within agro-processing.

Traditionally, agriculture in Ghana has been a significant contributor to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), accounting for around 60% of it. Due to the lack of industries and value addition, this figure has gradually decreased to about 45% in recent times. Nevertheless, it still represents a substantial portion of the economy. Imagine the impact on our economy if more industries were established or if investors were encouraged to invest in agro-processing and industrialization.

Agro-processing involves transforming raw agricultural products into value-added goods. Its economic importance cannot be overstated. By converting raw materials into processed goods such as food products, beverages, textiles, and biofuels, agro-processing adds value,



enhances marketability, prolongs shelf life, and opens up new avenues for trade. Processed goods have greater export potential, helping to balance international trade.

In a country grappling with high unemployment, establishing agro-processing factories can be a game-changer. The sector creates employment opportunities, not only preserving existing jobs in farming but also generating new positions in processing facilities, logistics, packaging, and marketing.

Agro-processing also plays a vital role in strengthening food security, a pressing challenge in Ghana. By processing and preserving surplus agricultural produce, the country can mitigate post-harvest losses and ensure a consistent supply of nutritious food throughout the year. Furthermore, agro-processing fosters innovation and technological advancements. By encouraging the adoption of modern processing methods, equipment, and quality control standards, it boosts productivity, diversifies products, and enhances competitiveness.

By unlocking its full potential, Ghana can foster economic stability, job creation, food security, and technological advancement. The time has come to harness the power of agro-processing and propel Ghana's economy to new heights.



Yield Monitoring and Mapping

By Jessica Meledi

Yield mapping, or yield monitoring, is a technique in agriculture that uses GPS data to analyze variables such as crop yield and moisture content in a given field. Yield mapping refers to the process of collecting georeferenced data on crop yield and characteristics, such as moisture content, while the crop is being harvested. Various methods, using a range of sensors, have been developed for mapping crop yields.6% from 2023 to 2033 to be worth US\$ 2.7 billion”

The basic components of a grain yield mapping system include:

Grain flow sensor: determines grain volume harvested

Grain moisture sensor: compensates for grain moisture variability

A clean grain elevator speed sensor is used by some mapping systems to improve the accuracy of grain flow measurements.

GPS antenna: receives satellite signal

Yield monitor display with a GPS receiver to georeference and record data.

Header position sensor: distinguishes measurements logged during turns.

Travel speed sensor: determines the distance the combine travels during a certain logging interval (Sometimes travel speed is measured with a GPS receiver or a radar or ultrasonic sensor).

Each sensor has to be properly calibrated according to the operator’s manual. Calibration converts the sensor’s signal into physical parameters. A proprietary binary log file is created during harvest to record the output of all sensors as a function of time. This file can be converted to text format or displayed as a map using the yield monitor vendor’s software.

Yield maps are crucial for precision agriculture, allowing an accurate representation of yield at specific locations. Map averaging or smoothing aids interpretation, and a long yield history is essential. Processed maps can investigate factors affecting yield or prescribe variable-rate agricultural inputs based on yield potential. Producers should evaluate different management approaches to find the most beneficial ones for their specific sites.

“Each sensor has to be properly calibrated according to the operator’s manual.”



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SOIL HEALTH?

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Soil health is a critical aspect of our ecosystem that often goes unnoticed but plays a vital role in sustaining life on Earth.

Beyond being a simple mixture of dirt, soil is a dynamic and living entity, hosting an array of microorganisms and nutrients. Understanding soil health involves exploring the complex interactions between soil, water, air, and vegetation.

When we talk about soil health, we uncover its essential functions. It acts as a natural filter, purifying water and providing a nutrient-rich environment for plant growth. Optimal soil health enhances agricultural productivity, supports biodiversity, and aids in mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration.

Preserving and nurturing soil health is not only a concern for farmers and environmentalists; it's a shared responsibility that impacts every living creature on this planet. By caring for the foundation beneath our feet, we can ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.



Agriculture's Role in Employment Creation in Africa

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

In Africa, the bond between agriculture and employment creation is a powerful force driving economic empowerment and social development. With the majority of the population residing in rural areas and relying on agriculture for their livelihoods, the sector presents tremendous opportunities for job growth and prosperity.

Agriculture in Africa spans a vast spectrum of activities, from smallholder farmers tilling the land to agribusiness enterprises and food processing industries. As governments and organizations invest in agricultural development, more employment opportunities arise across the entire value chain.

Rural communities, in particular, benefit from the positive ripple effects of agricultural growth. Increased employment means higher incomes, which, in turn, stimulate local economies and foster entrepreneurship. Moreover, as the continent's population continues to grow, the demand for food surges, creating an urgent need for skilled workers in modern agricultural practices and technology.

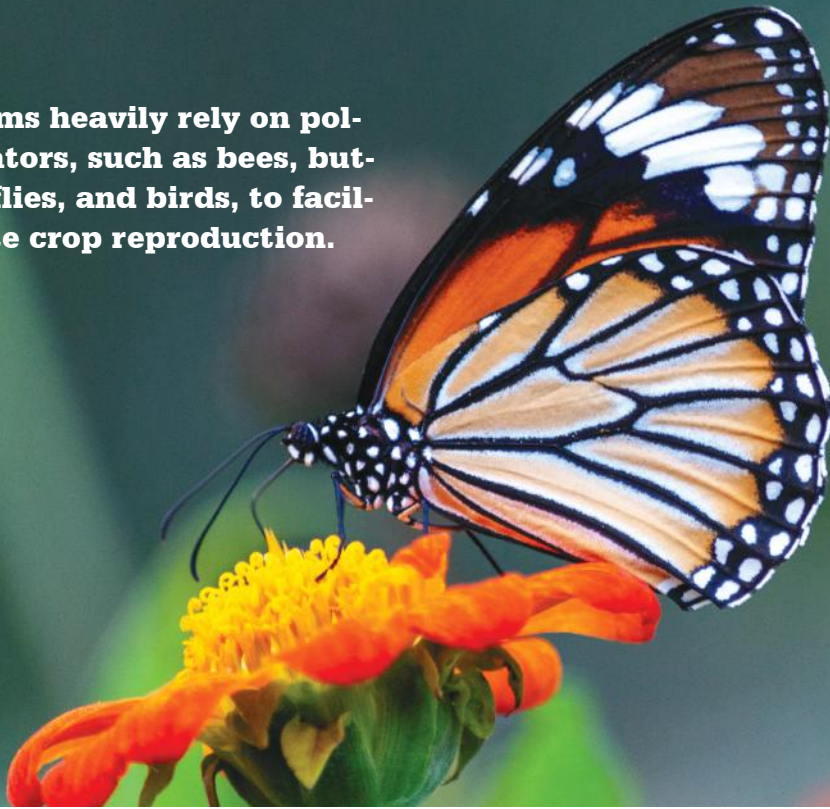
By leveraging innovative techniques, such as precision farming and sustainable practices, Africa can boost agricultural productivity while providing employment avenues

for a young and dynamic workforce. Additionally, the integration of agribusiness and technology opens doors to non-farm employment opportunities, as logistics, marketing, and finance play vital roles in the agricultural value chain.

As African countries prioritize agricultural development and invest in the sector, they not only secure food security but also unlock the potential for employment-led economic growth. Emphasizing agriculture's importance in job creation will pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for the people of Africa.

“As governments and organizations invest in agricultural development, more employment opportunities arise across the entire value chain.”

Farms heavily rely on pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, and birds, to facilitate crop reproduction.



Pawpaw juice is an excellent source of vitamin C, a potent antioxidant that boosts the immune system and protects the body against infections and harmful free radicals.



W The Soil Whisperer

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

In a recent interview, Naa Koteikor Amon, an esteemed agronomist and soil scientist, shed light on the vital importance of soil health and its far-reaching implications. With a deep understanding of the subject, she emphasized the need for widespread awareness and action to ensure the sustainability of our agricultural systems and the health of the soil.

According to her, the soil is a collection of natural bodies which supports plant growth and productivity.

During the interview, she passionately described soil health as the foundation of life. Naa Koteikor Amon indicated that soil is not just a medium for plants to grow in; it's a complex and dynamic ecosystem teeming with organisms and rich in organic matter.

She disclosed that maintaining soil health is crucial for sustainable agriculture, food security, and environmental preservation.

She further highlighted several key reasons why soil health deserves our utmost attention. First and foremost, Madam Amon said a healthy soil is essential for ensuring high-quality crop production. She explained that nutrient-rich soil provides the necessary elements for plants to thrive and produce nutritious food.

She believes that by implementing sustainable practices like crop rotation, cover cropping, and organic fertilization, farmers can improve soil fertility, enhance crop yields, and reduce reliance on synthetic inputs.

Furthermore, Madam Amon emphasized the role of soil in mitigating climate change. Healthy soils act as natural carbon sinks, storing carbon dioxide and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.





Addressing the issue of soil degradation, Amon expressed her concerns about the long-term consequences if proper action is not taken. "Factors like erosion, overuse of chemical fertilizers, and loss of organic matter contribute to soil degradation, diminishing its ability to sustain life," she warned. She stressed the need for implementing sustainable practices, such as conservation agriculture, soil conservation measures, and responsible land management, to combat soil degradation effectively.

Throughout the interview, Amon reiterated the importance of educating farmers, policymakers, and the public about soil health. "By raising awareness and providing resources and support, we can empower farmers to adopt sustainable practices and make informed decisions," she said.

She also called for collaboration between researchers, agronomists, and policymakers to develop policies and initiatives that prioritize soil health and sustainable agriculture.

As the interview concluded, she left the audience with a powerful message, "It is our collective responsibility to protect and enhance soil health, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for all."

The insights shared by Naa Koteikor Amon serve as a reminder of the crucial role soil health plays in our lives. By embracing sustainable practices, raising awareness, and prioritizing soil health in agricultural policies, we can pave the way for a resilient and thriving agricultural sector while safeguarding the environment for generations to come.

Brief Profile

Naa Koteikor Amon is a dedicated soil scientist who currently holds a position at the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA). Her academic journey began at Mfantsiman Girls' Senior High School, where she completed her secondary education. Afterward, she pursued her passion for agriculture and enrolled at the prestigious University of Ghana to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture.

Naa's commitment to her field of expertise led her to continue her education at the same university. She successfully completed her Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree in Soil Science, gaining valuable insights and expertise in this specialized area.

With her strong educational background and expertise in soil science, Naa plays a vital role in the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority. Her work likely involves conducting research, analyzing soil properties, and providing valuable insights to support agricultural development and irrigation projects in Ghana.

Araza Juice

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

Blackcurrant tea is a dried fruit tea made from small berries grown on a shrub. The Latin name of the shrub is ribes nigrum, and it's mostly grown across Europe and Asia.

Ingredients

2 ripe frozen arazas | Sugar / honeyHoney | Vanilla ice cream | Chopped hazel nuts/ berries (optional)

Procedure

Peel your frozen arazas and take out the seeds.

Slice into a blender and add sugar or honey, add ice cream and blend till smooth.

You may add water to reduce the thickness if preferred.

Scoop into a glass and garnish with berries/hazel nuts and serve.



The potential of Agroforestry to improve soil fertility and crop yields

By Jessica Meledi

Agroforestry is the intentional integration of trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems to create environmental, economical and social benefits. In practicing Agroforestry, crops are combined with shrubs and trees.

The main focus of Agroforestry is to optimize positive interactions, such as mutualism, commensalism, and to minimize predation on crops and competition within and between species.

Agroforestry has risen to prominence as a land use strategy to help address global climate change. Existing research suggests that integrating trees on farms can prevent environmental degradation, improve agricultural productivity, increase carbon sequestration, generate cleaner water, and support healthy soil and healthy ecosystems while providing stable incomes and other benefits to human welfare.

Studies also indicate that, agroforestry practices have an important effect on soil fertility, significantly increasing the content and cycling of Ca and P in the soils. In agroforestry, forest canopy offers the necessary protection of soil against erosion, stopping wind and rain from adversely impacting the land, while mulch helps conserve moisture, which further protects against erosion.

By maintaining organic matter in the soil, agroforestry reduces the amount of nutrient loss, allowing farmers to maximize productivity of their crops on the same amount of land.

Forests are vital to our economy, as well. Trees are part of forest ecosystems that play a critical role in our livelihoods, providing environmental, economic and social values.

Agroforestry practices support agricultural production and help improve water quality and air quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat. These working trees can also grow fiber, food, and energy.

And with the world population constantly increasing drastically, practicing agroforestry can help meet the growing demands for food, shelter and recreation.

Symphony of the Fields

*In golden fields where dreams take root,
Agriculture's song gently plays,
Nature's chorus, life's pursuit,
Harvesting hope in myriad ways.*

*From tender seeds, new life emerges,
Nurtured by the sun's warm embrace,
Earth's bountiful gifts it converges,
A symphony of growth, nature's grace.*

*Hands that toil, hearts interlace,
Farmers' devotion, an ancient art,
Sowing the earth with gentle pace,
Tending to lands, each labor a part.*

*In agriculture's tapestry woven,
A dance of seasons, an endless flow,
From soil to table, a cycle unbroken,
Life's sustenance, a gift we bestow.*

— Poem By Prince Opoku Dogbey

A NEW STRATEGY FOR GHANA'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

By Nana Ama Oforiwa Antwi

Ghana's Agriculture Sector makes a significant contribution to the Gross Domestic Product of the country. Initially, it used to contribute about 60%; however, due to several challenges probing the sector, including climate change, its current contribution is about 45% of the total.

Despite this, it is still regarded as the most important employer in the country, as it presents various career opportunities for individuals.

The government and private actors constantly formulate policies and strategies to promote and improve the sector due to its huge potential to completely revolutionize our economy.

An instance of such initiative is the "Planting for Food and Jobs," project, initiated in 2017 to help increase food production, promote farming as a noble and profitable profession, and also encourage the youth to indulge in the venture.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture is currently set to implement a five-year Agriculture Strategic Framework to pave the way forward in the sector.

Observing the shortcomings of the sector, it was realized that subsidizing fertilizer and the prices of improved seeds put a toll on the government, so it was important to give a new directive and to formulate a better model that supports the entire value chain.

The framework is to ensure sustainable national food security, self-sufficiency in the production of agricultural commodities, and a thriving agribusiness.

It will also lower the entry point for farmers to encourage participation and provide an input credit system to farmers, as it has been observed that many farmers in Ghana are denied loans due to several reasons, such as the lack of collateral and inadequate financial literacy, among others.

The strategy aims to transform agricultural value chains for economic development with active private-sector participation in the targeted agricultural commodities.

"The framework is to ensure sustainable national food security, self-sufficiency in the production of agricultural commodities, and a thriving agribusiness."



TODAY'S TIPS

Instead of planting crops on flat land, implementing ridge planting techniques can bring about numerous benefits for farmers and the overall health of the soil. Ridging involves gathering soil from the sides and shaping it into raised ridges with a trapezoidal contour at the center of the planting beds.

The practice of ridging offers several advantages. Firstly, it contributes to improved soil health. By creating raised ridges, the soil structure is enhanced, allowing for better aeration and water drainage. This promotes root development, nutrient uptake, and overall plant growth.

In addition, ridging helps mitigate soil erosion and runoff. The raised contours of the ridges act as barriers, reducing the speed at which water flows across the field. This prevents excessive soil erosion and helps retain moisture, particularly during heavy rains. The result is less loss of topsoil and valuable nutrients, ultimately preserving the long-term fertility of the land.

Furthermore, ridging makes weeding more efficient for farmers. The raised ridges create distinct planting beds, making it easier to differentiate between crops and weeds. This targeted approach facilitates more effective weed management, reducing competition for nutrients and ensuring optimal growth conditions for the cultivated plants.



The Importance of Agricultural Investments

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Investing in agriculture is not just a matter of economic growth; it is a critical step towards securing a sustainable future for our planet and its inhabitants. As the global population continues to rise, the demand for food and agricultural products surges, making agricultural investments more crucial than ever before.

One of the primary reasons for investing in agriculture is to ensure food security. With a growing population, agricultural production must increase significantly to meet the rising demand for food. By channeling funds into agricultural infrastructure, research, and technology, we can enhance productivity and improve food availability for people worldwide.

Moreover, agricultural investments foster rural development. Many developing countries heavily rely on agriculture as a primary source of income and employment. By investing in modern agricultural practices, irrigation systems, and market access, we can uplift rural communities, reduce poverty, and stimulate economic growth.

Investments in agriculture also play a crucial role in sustainable development. Sustainable agricultural practices focus on minimizing environmental impacts while maximizing productivity. By supporting initiatives that promote soil health, water conservation, and biodiversity preservation, we ensure the long-term viability of our ecosystems and natural resources.

Additionally, agricultural investments can boost resilience in the face of climate change. Climate variability poses significant challenges to agricultural productivity. By investing in research and technologies that develop drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation systems, and climate-smart practices, we empower farmers to adapt and thrive in a changing climate.

In conclusion, agricultural investments are indispensable for addressing global challenges such as food security, rural development, sustainable practices, and climate change adaptation. By prioritizing agriculture and directing resources towards innovative solutions, we not only secure a thriving agricultural sector but also ensure a more sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.

“By investing in research and technologies, we empower farmers to adapt and thrive in a changing climate.”





Agriculture • L'utilisation des matières bio comme fertilisants en Chine

Par Yosua Domedjui

Les agriculteurs japonais utilisent des engrais artificiels pour fertiliser leurs terres. C'est une habitude étrange au début, mais elle est bon marché et, surtout, sans danger pour l'environnement.

Des déchets, notamment des légumes rejetés, des boues d'épuration et de l'eau provenant de stations d'épuration, ainsi que des excréments humains, sont utilisés pour fabriquer de l'engrais. C'est ce qu'utilise l'agriculteur Nobuyoshi Fujiwara dans sa ferme de Yokosuka, près de Tokyo. Il affirme qu'en utilisant cette technique, il serait possible de réduire de moitié la quantité d'engrais chimique habituellement utilisée dans la région. En outre, elle permettrait de réduire les besoins en pesticides. Le transport des déchets humains dans des camions-citernes vers des installations de traitement permet de drainer l'eau. Dans des réservoirs de grande taille, des micro-organismes fermentent les matières résiduelles. Cette approche permet non seulement de produire du compost, mais aussi de l'électricité.

Le principal problème de cette nouvelle substance est son odeur, comme on peut s'y attendre. De plus, il n'est pas toujours facile de s'entendre avec ses voisins. Les agriculteurs ont en effet entendu des plaintes de la part des habitants du quartier.

Un produit vert à un prix raisonnable

D'un point de vue environnemental, le compost est préférable aux engrais chimiques. Et pour cause, ces derniers contiennent des toxines présentes en permanence dans le sol, l'eau et l'air. En raison du risque qu'ils représentent aujourd'hui pour la santé humaine, ils constituent un sujet de préoccupation important pour tous. L'Agence européenne pour l'environnement affirme qu'ils peuvent entraîner des maladies graves comme le cancer.

Il est en effet beaucoup moins coûteux que le moteur à base de composants chimiques importé. Il est vendu 160 yens, soit 1 euro pour 15 kilogrammes. Ce qui revient 10 fois moins cher qu'un engrais chimique. Cette méthode agricole se développe de plus en plus au Japon.

Selon une entreprise de la ville de Tomé interrogée par l'AFP, les ventes d'engrais d'origine humaine ont augmenté de 160% en mars. Et pour cause, elle permet aux agriculteurs de faire face à la forte hausse des prix.

Le coût de l'énergie, du pétrole brut et des produits agricoles a considérablement augmenté dans le contexte actuel caractérisé par le conflit en Ukraine. L'énergie, les engrais et les produits agricoles sont désormais beaucoup plus chers. La Russie et l'Ukraine sont parmi les premiers producteurs de produits agricoles au monde et occupent une place de choix dans la chaîne d'approvisionnement du marché mondial, selon une étude de l'OMC et de la FAO.

La Chine et le Congo se mettent en collaboration pour développer l'agriculture

Par Yosua Domedjui

Selon Paul Valentin Ngobo, ministre de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche de la République du Congo, la Chine s'est révélée être un partenaire "fiable" et "crédible" dans le développement agricole du pays. Le ministre a fait l'éloge de la collaboration agricole entre les deux nations, la qualifiant de "très concrète et importante" pour le Congo, qui en bénéficie pour mieux nourrir sa population et prospérer.

Cette coopération se distingue surtout par le partage d'expérience et la formation dispensée par les professionnels chinois. Selon lui, l'expertise agricole est cruciale pour la croissance durable du secteur. Il a souligné que si « les équipements s'abîment, la formation des connaissances dure longtemps », citant notamment le Centre de démonstration des techniques agricoles (CDTA) de Brazzaville. Sa mission est d'améliorer et de diversifier la production agricole par le biais de la recherche et de la formation.

Au fil du temps, le centre s'est imposé comme un nom familier à Brazzaville. Les produits fabriqués sous son égide, tels que la pastèque sans pépins, se vendent bien sur les marchés de quartier. Selon M. Ngobo, le CDTA « est le canal par lequel le transfert de connaissances peut avoir lieu et par lequel la Chine peut nous apporter des connaissances supplémentaires dans le domaine de l'agriculture ».

"Je rencontre souvent des cultivateurs de maïs chinois sur TikTok. J'aimerais savoir comment ils font", a-t-il répondu. M. Ngobo a plaidé pour l'extension du programme de formation afin de soutenir la sécurité alimentaire du pays, car "des gens qui ne connaissaient rien au soja dans une zone agricole du département de la Lékoumou (...) produisent aujourd'hui des tonnes de soja".

Le CDTA est la vision de M. Ngobo pour le secteur agricole en République démocratique du Congo. Il a ouvert une usine de transformation de farine de manioc dans le cadre du CDTA en avril 2023. Environ 90 % de la population congolaise consomme du manioc comme repas principal.

Il considère cette installation, qui a une capacité de production annuelle de 4 000 tonnes, comme « une illustration concrète de la coopération » entre les deux nations.

Selon M. Ngobo, l'ouverture de cette usine permet de baisser le prix de la farine de manioc et d'augmenter les revenus des producteurs, ce qui est conforme aux objectifs de la stratégie de résilience alimentaire congolaise pour les années 2022-2023, qui est d'encourager les agriculteurs et de réduire la pauvreté dans les régions rurales.

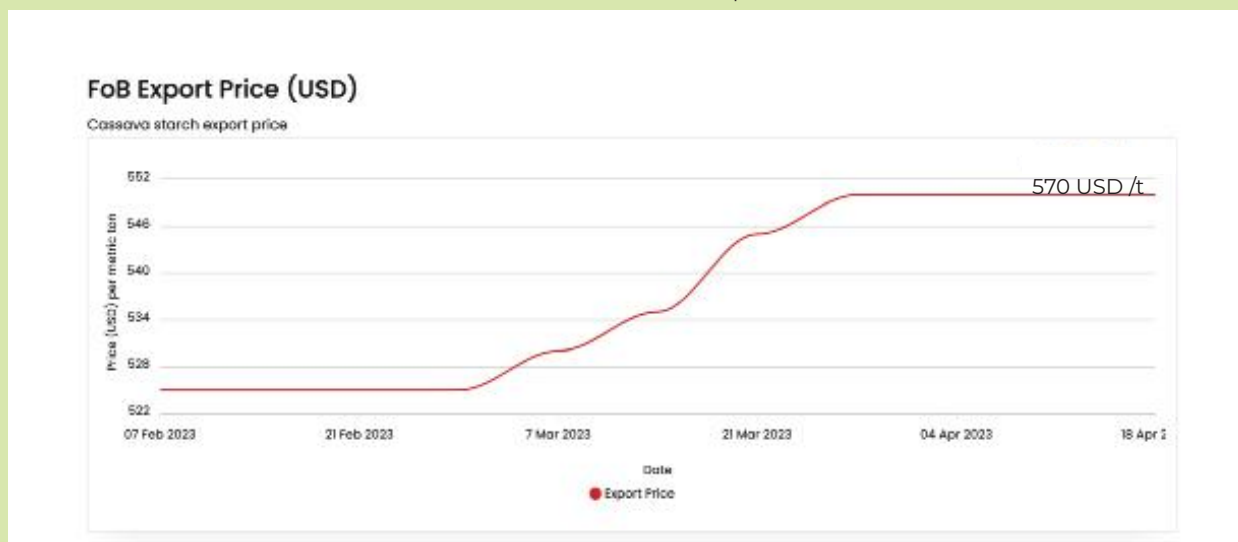


La capacité de « fournir un aliment de base de manière régulière et à un prix acceptable » est rendue possible par ces usines, a-t-il déclaré, et il espère que ce modèle sera appliqué à d'autres cultures, telles que le soja et le maïs.

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 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.

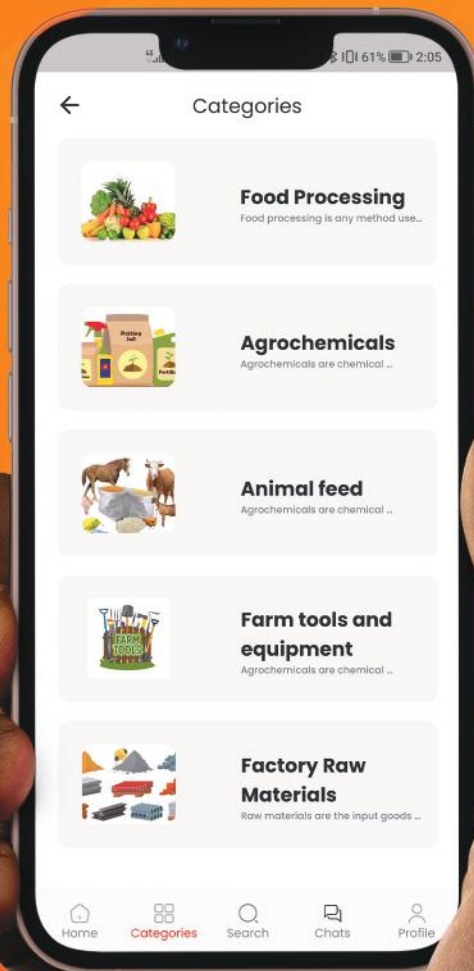
Harvesting time: The harvesting period is a great determinant for the price of cassava. The abundance and scarcity of cassava affect the price. The prices of fresh cassava roots often rise in November and December of every year as cassava is easily harvested during the rainy season. During the harvesting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



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