

agro^{riches}

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WORLD NEWS

Egypt: 156,000 tons of corn and soy feed released

ARTICLE

The Forgotten Resource

NOTRE CHRONIQUE

Production des semences de qualités



LUBAN WORKSHOP LAUNCHED IN GHANA

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.

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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By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Agricultural Productivity through Technological Innovations

Africa is a continent with vast potential for agricultural development. With a growing population and increasing food demand, it is crucial to find innovative solutions to enhance agricultural productivity. Technological advancements have the power to transform the agribusiness sector in Africa and pave the way for sustainable growth.

One area where technology is making a significant impact is precision agriculture. By leveraging tools such as drones, sensors, and satellite imagery, farmers can gather real-time data on soil conditions, crop health, and water usage. This data-driven approach enables farmers to optimize their farming practices, reduce input costs, and improve yields. In addition, mobile applications are providing farmers with access to market information, weather updates, and best agricultural practices, empowering them to make informed decisions.

Another technological breakthrough in Africa's agribusiness sector is the use of blockchain technology. Blockchain offers a decentralized and transparent platform that can revolutionize supply chain management. By recording every transaction and movement of agricultural products, from farm to fork, blockchain ensures traceability, reduces fraud, and enhances food safety. This is particularly important for African exporters who can gain a competitive advantage in international markets by providing certified and traceable products.

Furthermore, renewable energy solutions are playing a pivotal role in addressing Africa's energy challenges in the agricultural sector. Solar-powered irrigation systems are enabling farmers to access water resources and irrigate their fields efficiently, even in remote areas with limited access to electricity. This not only increases productivity but also reduces dependence on fossil fuels and contributes to mitigating climate change.



Chayote

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Origin

Chayote, scientifically known as *Sechium edule*, is a unique vegetable that belongs to the gourd family. With its pale green, wrinkled skin and pear-like shape, chayote is not only visually appealing but also offers a range of culinary possibilities and nutritional benefits. Native to Mexico and Central America, chayote has gained popularity worldwide due to its versatility and mild, crisp flavor.

Description

It has tiny white unisexual blooms and green, furrowed pear-shaped fruits. One seed is implanted in the green to green-white flesh of each fruit, which is around 7.5 to 10 cm (about 3 to 4 inches) long.

Health Benefits

Good source of Minerals

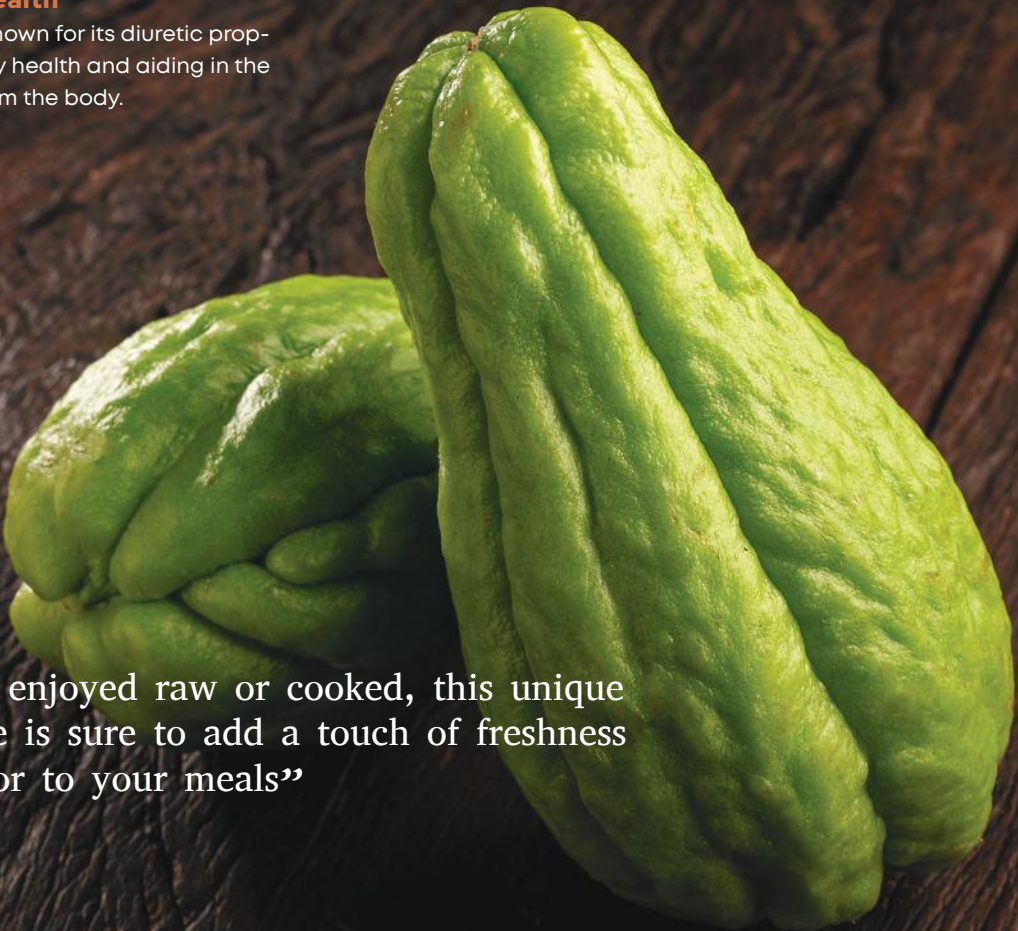
Chayote is a good source of vitamin C, vitamin B6, folate, and potassium. It also contains antioxidants, such as flavonoids, which help protect the body against oxidative stress and inflammation.

Supports digestion

Beyond its nutritional value, chayote is believed to offer health benefits. The fiber content in chayote supports digestion and helps maintain a healthy digestive system.

Promotes kidney health

The vegetable is also known for its diuretic properties, promoting kidney health and aiding in the elimination of toxins from the body.



“Whether enjoyed raw or cooked, this unique vegetable is sure to add a touch of freshness and flavor to your meals”



Weta Irrigation Scheme Poised to Improve Rice Production

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

The Ag. Chief Executive of the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA), Ing. Richard Opong-Boateng said the Weta Irrigation Scheme (WIS), is poised to play a pivotal role in revolutionizing rice production and driving agricultural transformation in Ghana.

He made this known when the Authority paid a two-day working visit to the Weta irrigation scheme project in the Volta Region on Thursday, June, 2023 to address the challenges in a bid to spearhead and enhance rice production and reduce imports.

Speaking to Agroriches News, Ing. Opong-Boateng said the Authority aims at strengthening the Weta irrigation scheme, empowering it to enhance domestic rice yields, guarantee food security, and establish a sustainable agricultural landscape for the country.

“Ghana should expect an improvement in domestic rice production. With the demo fields and capacity building of the farmers, I am sure we would have the whole area put under cultivation, the yields and production levels should go up,” he said.

The Authority is implementing various measures to strengthen the scheme, including desilting and reshaping drains, clearing vegetation from dam slopes, deploying performance monitoring devices, developing land, extending the main canal, reclaiming of flooded areas of 105 hectares, automation of canals and intake gates, provision of hybrid solar-green energy to the intake gates, dewatering pump station, and several other initiatives.

“In fact, there are over 300,000 hectares inland Valleys identified for rice production. These areas alone if put under full scale rice production can give us 1.8 million metric tons, surplus of 300,000 metric tons”

He mentioned that the Government of Ghana has selected the Weta Irrigation Scheme for refurbishment under the Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) funded by the World Bank, following a recommendation from the Authority.

During an interview with Samuel Kumi, the Ag. Scheme Manager at the Weta Irrigation Scheme, it was revealed that the scheme, catering to 23 communities in the area, has generated numerous employment opportunities across the entire value chain.

These opportunities span from farmers and aggregators to processors and distributors, showcasing the scheme's positive impact on the local workforce.

Kenya: Over 4 million Farmers Registered in 5 months

By Jessica Meledi

Data from Kenya's Agriculture and Interior Ministry indicated that a total of 4,287,713 farmers in Kenya have been registered in the past five months in the ongoing farmers registration drive.

The newly released data shows Rift Valley County leading with 1,241,482 farmers registered followed by Eastern region with 888,675.

Nyanza, Western and Central Kenya have crossed the half-a-million mark, capturing details of 633,438, 614,146 and 591,776 farmers respectively.

The Coast region has compiled a list of 235,779 farmers, while North Eastern (44,679) and Nairobi (6,738) closed the list with the lowest numbers so far.

A total of 16 countries have filed a significantly high number of registered farmers. Bungoma is second with 203,310, then followed by Kakamega, which has 203,173 farmers 'details in records.

Notably, some countries have relatively low numbers of registered farmers with Isiolo, Mombasa, Marsabit, Wajir, Garissa recording well under ten thousand each.

The government of Kenya launched this exercise in January with the intent to establish a national database of all farmers detailing their profiles, location and crop acreage among other identifiers.

The move has also facilitated the ongoing distribution of fertilizer.



“The Coast region has compiled a list of 235,779 farmers, while North Eastern (44,679) and Nairobi (6,738) closed the list with the lowest numbers so far.”

Egypt: 156,000 tons of corn and soy feed released

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

According to a statement made by Egypt's Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, El-Sayed El-Qusair, Egypt was able to obtain the release of 156,000 tons of grain and soybeans valued at \$78 million from ports.

According to him, the released cargo included 104,000 tons of maize valued at \$37 million, 52,000 tons of soybeans valued at \$39 million, and \$1.5 million worth of feed additives.

According to the statement, 5.4 million tons of fodder were issued overall between 16 October 2022 and 1 June, including 4 million tons of corn, 1.4 million tons of soybeans, and feed additives. The statement further stated that these are all worth \$2.6 billion.

News reports revealed that, because vital goods were previously kept at ports due to limits placed on import financing because of a hard currency constraint, the nation experienced a feed supply deficit.

The main causes of the problem's aggravation were the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the weakening of the Egyptian pound against the US dollar.

Many producers were forced to exit the market due to a decrease in supply and the subsequent increase in prices of eggs and poultry.

In late 2022, the government began to ease restrictions after securing a \$3 billion loan from the IMF. In return, they adopted a flexible exchange regime.

In a recent announcement, the government revealed plans to import 170,000 cattle for Eid Al-Adha, which will occur in late June.



Harnessing Big Data Analytics in Agriculture

By Precious Akinagbe-Smith

The agricultural sector is generating vast amounts of data through various sources, such as sensors, satellites, and farm management systems. One area where big data analytics is making a significant impact is in farm management.

By integrating data from weather forecasts, soil sensors, and crop monitoring systems, farmers can gain a comprehensive understanding of their fields' conditions.

Additionally, big data analytics enables predictive modeling and forecasting in agriculture. By analyzing historical data, weather patterns, and market trends, farmers can make accurate predictions regarding crop yields, market demand, and price fluctuations.

Furthermore, big data analytics facilitates supply chain optimization. By tracking and analyzing data throughout the supply chain, from farm to fork, stakeholders can identify bottlenecks, improve logistics, and enhance traceability. This not only reduces waste and improves product quality but also enables the identification of potential risks, such as food safety issues or supply disruptions, and facilitates prompt actions to mitigate them.

Moreover, big data analytics has the potential to revolutionize agricultural finance and insurance. By analyzing historical production data, market trends, and climate patterns, financial institutions can develop innovative risk management tools and tailor financial products to the specific needs of farmers.

However, challenges exist in implementing big data analytics in agriculture, such as data privacy and accessibility, technical infrastructure, and the need for skilled data analysts. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration between governments, private sector entities, and research institutions to establish data governance frameworks, develop appropriate infrastructure, and provide training and capacity building opportunities.

In conclusion, big data analytics holds tremendous potential for transforming the agricultural sector. By harnessing the power of data, farmers and agribusinesses can optimize production, make informed decisions, and mitigate risks.



Biofortification: Enhancing Nutrition through Crop Improvement

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Biofortification is an innovative approach in agriculture that aims to address widespread nutrient deficiencies in vulnerable populations. By breeding crops to increase their nutritional value, specifically targeting essential vitamins and minerals, biofortification offers a sustainable and cost-effective solution to improve public health and combat malnutrition.

Through conventional breeding techniques or genetic modification, crops are enriched with higher levels of specific nutrients such as iron, zinc, vitamin A, and folate. These enhanced crops not only retain their original agronomic characteristics but also provide a more nutritious food source.

Biofortified crops have the potential to make a significant impact, particularly in regions where access to diverse diets and nutritional supplements is limited. By consuming these crops, communities can obtain essential nutrients directly from the food they grow and consume daily, reducing the reliance on external supplementation.

One successful example of biofortification is vitamin A-enriched orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. These varieties have been introduced in several countries, including Ghana and Uganda, where vitamin A deficiency is prevalent. By incorporating these nutritious crops into local diets, biofortification efforts have helped improve vitamin A levels and reduce related health issues, particularly in children and pregnant women.

Biofortification holds great promise in combating malnutrition and improving public health, especially in developing countries. By harnessing the power of plant breeding and genetic engineering, biofortification offers a sustainable and long-term solution to address nutrient deficiencies and enhance food security worldwide.



Let's talk

The Role of Biotechnology in Modern Agriculture

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Biototechnology is revolutionizing modern agriculture by offering innovative solutions to enhance crop productivity, improve nutritional content, and mitigate pests and diseases.

Through genetic engineering and other biotechnological techniques, scientists are developing crops with desirable traits that can address food security challenges and contribute to sustainable agricultural practices.

One significant application of biotechnology in agriculture is the development of genetically modified (GM) crops. GM crops are designed to possess specific traits, such as resistance to pests, diseases, or herbicides. These traits can help reduce crop losses, decrease the use of chemical pesticides, and improve overall yields.

Biotechnology also plays a crucial role in enhancing nutritional content in crops. Through genetic modification, scientists have developed biofortified crops that are rich in essential vitamins, minerals, and micronutrients. For example, vitamin A-enriched golden rice holds the potential to combat vitamin A deficiency, a leading cause of childhood blindness in developing countries.

Moreover, biotechnology is instrumental in developing sustainable pest and disease management strategies. Researchers are engineering crops with inherent resistance to specific pathogens, reducing the reliance on chemical fungicides and protecting crop yields.

Additionally, biotechnological advancements have facilitated the development of rapid diagnostic tools that enable early detection and timely management of plant diseases.



SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION PRACTICES FOR ENHANCED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Irrigation plays a vital role in agricultural production, especially in regions where rainfall is limited or unpredictable. However, traditional irrigation methods often result in water wastage and environmental degradation. To achieve sustainable agricultural practices, innovative irrigation techniques are being adopted to optimize water usage and enhance productivity.

One such technique is drip irrigation, which delivers water directly to the plant roots in a slow and steady manner. This method minimizes water loss due to evaporation and runoff, resulting in significant water savings compared to conventional sprinkler or flood irrigation systems. Drip irrigation also reduces weed growth and enables precise application of fertilizers, leading to improved crop yields and nutrient efficiency.

Another sustainable irrigation practice gaining traction is the use of precision irrigation technologies. These technologies utilize sensors, weather data, and advanced algorithms to monitor soil moisture levels and plant water requirements in real-time. By providing accurate information, farmers can adjust irrigation schedules and optimize water delivery, reducing water waste and ensuring crops receive the right amount of water at the right time.

Furthermore, the integration of renewable energy sources in irrigation systems contributes to sustainability. Solar-powered irrigation pumps are being increasingly adopted, particularly in remote areas with limited access to

electricity. Solar pumps are cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and provide reliable power for irrigation, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and lowering operational costs for farmers.

To promote sustainable irrigation practices, governments, agricultural organizations, and farmers need to collaborate. Implementing policies and incentives that encourage the adoption of water-efficient irrigation systems, providing training and technical support to farmers, and facilitating access to financing for irrigation infrastructure are essential steps toward sustainable agriculture.

In conclusion, sustainable irrigation practices are essential for maximizing agricultural productivity while minimizing water usage and environmental impacts. Drip irrigation, precision irrigation technologies, and solar-powered irrigation systems are examples of innovative approaches that optimize water resources, enhance crop yields, and promote sustainable agriculture in the face of water scarcity and climate change challenges.





Crop Rotation

Crop rotation helps break the cycle of pests and diseases, improves soil structure, and optimizes nutrient availability.



Apple tea

Drinking apple tea in the morning can be helpful in improving your digestion, which in turn can cure constipation.

TIAST Joins Chinese Institutions to Establish Luban Workshop

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

China has launched its flagship vocational and technical workshop in Ghana, aiming to provide valuable skills training in the field of agriculture, with a particular focus on empowering the country's youth.

The state-of-the-art facility, known as the China-Ghana Agricultural Luban Workshop (CGALW), was jointly established by Liaoning Agricultural Vocational and Technical College in China, the UENR, the Ghana Chinese Chamber of Commerce and TIAST West Africa Limited.

It is strategically situated at the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) in Sunyani, Ghana's Bono Region.

This workshop serves as a significant milestone in the partnership between China and Ghana, highlighting their commitment to fostering agricultural development and knowledge transfer.

The Luban workshop is an internationally recognized vocational education training program supported by the Ministry of Education of China, drawing inspiration from the esteemed craftsmanship of ancient Chinese artisans.

Speaking at the launch of the CGLAW in Accra last Friday, the Chinese Ambassador to Ghana, Lu Kan, stated during the CGLAW's launch last Friday in Accra that the initiative sought to promote collaboration in the fields of culture and education between China and other nations.

He said ten of these workshops were being set up in Africa to strengthen cooperation between China and African nations.

"Under the personal care and promotion of President Xi Jinping, in the past five years, the African Luban workshop has realized the overall output of Chinese standards, models, equipment and solutions.

"More young Africans are eager to improve their skills in Luban workshops and find new opportunities for employment and development," Mr Kan added.

He stated that in order to boost output, the center would largely concentrate on cassava production.



The Ambassador indicated that China had continually assisted Ghana in enhancing its agricultural industry by sending specialists to the nation and sending Ghanaians there to gain knowledge in the field, and that the CGLAW will help "inject new impetus for Ghana-China relationship."

Gifty Twum-Ampofo, a Deputy Minister of Education, lauded China for its ongoing support of technical education in the nation, noting that it has resulted in the modernization and enhancement of 13 technical second cycle schools and 10 technical institutions.

She said the workshop will boost the government's efforts to industrialize the nation and assist in processing its raw materials.

Dr. Winfred Nii Okai Hammond, Ghana's ambassador to China, said the Luban

educational workshop had greatly increased the number of young people who were empowered in the nations where they had been formed.

He expressed hope that this would also happen in Ghana.



“The state-of-the-art facility, known as the China-Ghana Agricultural Luban Workshop (CGALW), was jointly established by Liaoning Agricultural Vocational and Technical College in China, the UENR, the Ghana Chinese Chamber of Commerce and **TIAST West Africa Limited”**

Ensalada De Chayote

By Nana Ama Oforiwa Antwi

Join me on a bus journey of "trying new things," and today's destination is Mexico, the country where the chayote fruit is native. Here is the recipe for my special salad with the fruit Chayote, which I have named "Ensalada de Chayote." Need some Spanish lessons? Learn from my kitchen.

Ingredients

1 large chayote | 1 large shallot | 2 carrots | 2 hard-boiled eggs
1 tin of sardines | Cayenne pepper | Salt | 1 Lime | Shredded fried/grilled chicken | Mayonnaise

Instructions

- Wash all vegetables with water and vinegar/ salt.
- Slice onions whole to create rings
- slice carrots in your preferred shape.
- Slice your chayote to create thin slices.
- Peel and slice eggs in your preferred shape.
- In a big bowl, place the sliced onions, carrots and chayote.
- In that same bowl, put in the sardines without the oil and mash with a fork.
- Use a fork to mix the ingredients in the bowl.
- Cut the lemon in half and squeeze a drop or two into the mix.
- Proceed to add your shredded chicken to the mix.
- Sprinkle some cayenne pepper and salt and stir.
- Garnish with the eggs and onions.
- Put in the fridge for about 10-15 minutes and serve with mayonnaise as a dip.
- This recipe can serve 2-3 heads and can be served alongside bread or rice.



The Forgotten Resource

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

Ghana is often called “the blessed land” because the country can boast of many resources including gold, bauxite, diamond, manganese, limestone, iron ore, cocoa, salt, and recently oil. These resources have contributed massively towards the development of the country.

The Government of Ghana uses cocoa as collateral to secure loans and exporting other minerals have helped in building and developing the country to what it is today.

However, there is one particular resource that is often overlooked yet is the genesis of all these

minerals. This resource hosts all the others yet is not even acknowledged as a resource or given the due protection and sustenance it deserves.

The resource in question, is the soil. Have you ever taken a second to think about how soil has contributed to your existence?

Gold, diamond, bauxite, salt and all the aforementioned minerals are deeply embedded in the soil. Our agriculture, which contributes about 60% to the country’s GDP, would not have been possible without arable lands to ensure crop yield and productivity.



Ghana has recently regained its position as the first largest producers of cocoa this 2022/23 crop season (ICCO reports) all thanks to the hard work of farmers and soil which supports the crop’s growth.

Individuals go arms-length to extract resources like gold, diamond, oil, among others in the country while other resources like soil and water are destroyed in the process yet as individuals, how do we treat our soil?

Do we accord it the same level of care and protection we do the others?

Even Gold and diamonds do not contribute as much to our existence as the soil does yet no

one pays much attention to its sustenance. The food we grow and consume would not be possible without the soil, meaning, we will not be alive if the soil did not have the means and necessary nutrients to support plants growth.

The world’s population now stands at 8 billion and we still look at the soil to feed the ever-growing number yet little is done to improve the soil.

Most forests in Africa are being destroyed in pursuit of mineral resources or settlements, and the change in weather patterns and archaic farming methods put pressure on it to produce more food, lessening its nutrients in return.

Love In the Meadows

*I sat in the grass
Completely covered by the long grains
Twisting a lily with my fingers
I patiently laid on my back
As the thought lingered
Is it confidence I lack?
Or fear of being sacked?
for I knew I had to take an action
one which would lessen or worsen the tension
since when was falling in love a crime?
Since when did love cost a dime
Wish I had a farm to my name
Or hoses and oxen to tame
Wish I didn't look this lame
wish I had fame to my name
I was no noble
I was Bob the hobble
In love with my Master's daughter*

— Poem by Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi



Diversifying crops in Ghana for export

By Jessica Meledi

While cocoa remains the dominant source of agricultural earnings in Ghana, a number of other tree crops, including cashew, coffee, coconut, oil palm, mango, rubber, and shea nuts, have seen promising harvests over the past few years.

The more Ghana decides to diversify their exports, the less volatile their export earnings are and the more sustainable their economic growth. Among the non-traditional export tree crops with the greatest potential, cashew stands out both in terms of value and volume.

In 2018, Ghana produced \$378 million worth of cashew, an increase of 43.8% on the previous year and a 17-fold jump on the \$20 million produced in 2009. From a cost perspective, cashew offers attractive returns.

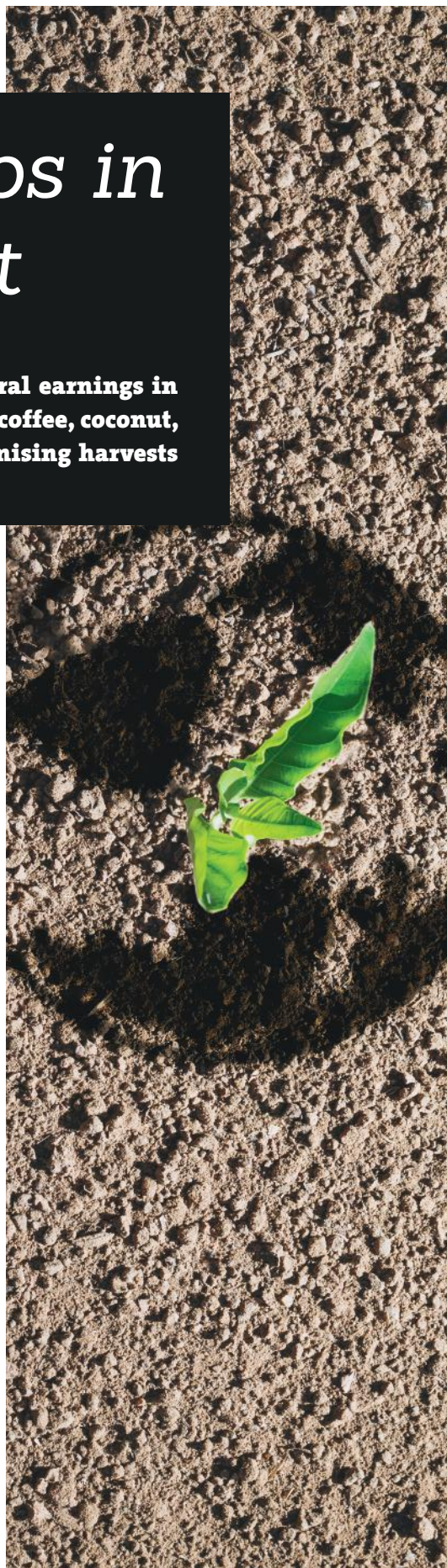
The vulnerability of cashew to price swings is due to the fact that an overwhelming majority of cashew farmers are smallholders with limited means to store their products. More than 80% of cashew is sold unprocessed, so there's a need for the government to invest in cashew so it can also be one of Ghana's main exports.

As one of the major producers of shea nuts, Ghana is benefiting from the growing worldwide demand for shea butter, fueled by the food and cosmetics industries.

There is a need to set up more shea nut processing factories and empower shea nut farmers financially and with machinery to boost the country's existing shea nut industry so the government can earn more returns from shea nuts as one of its main exports.

It is important for the government to diversify other crops in Ghana aside from cocoa. The over reliance on cocoa as the main export is a recipe for disaster. Crop diversification is important for a country's economy because the more countries diversify their exports, the less volatile their export earnings are and the more sustainable their economic growth.

Export diversification reduces an economy's vulnerability to adverse external shocks.



TODAY'S TIPS

A crucial farm tip for sustainable crop production is to prioritize soil health. Healthy soil provides a strong foundation for robust plant growth and nutrient uptake.

To enhance soil health, farmers should focus on practices such as organic matter incorporation, cover cropping, and minimizing soil erosion. Adding organic matter like compost or crop residues improves soil structure, moisture retention, and nutrient availability.

Implementing cover crops during fallow periods helps prevent soil erosion, suppress weeds, and add organic matter. Conservation practices like contour plowing and terracing can further minimize soil erosion and maintain soil fertility.

By prioritizing soil health, farmers can improve long-term productivity, reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, and promote environmental sustainability in agriculture.



Unlocking the Potential of Agribusiness Investment in Africa

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Investing in agribusiness in Africa presents a compelling opportunity for both local and international investors. The continent's vast arable land, diverse agroecological zones, and growing consumer market make it an attractive destination for agricultural investment. However, unlocking the full potential of agribusiness requires strategic planning, supportive policies, and targeted investments.

One key aspect of agribusiness investment in Africa is infrastructure development. Building robust transportation networks, storage facilities, and processing plants is essential for reducing post-harvest losses, improving market access, and adding value to agricultural products. Infrastructure investments create an enabling environment for agribusinesses to thrive and attract private sector participation.

Furthermore, access to finance remains a critical factor in accelerating agribusiness development in Africa. Many small-scale farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs lack access to capital and financial services. Establishing innovative financing mechanisms, such as agricultural lending facilities, venture capital funds, and microfinance institutions, can address this gap and stimulate investment in the sector. Moreover, partnerships between financial institutions, development organizations, and governments can facilitate knowledge sharing, risk mitigation, and capacity building for agribusinesses.

In addition to infrastructure and finance, promoting research and development (R&D) in agriculture is crucial for driving innovation and improving productivity. Supporting local research institutions, providing grants for R&D projects, and fostering collaboration between academia and industry can lead to the development of new technologies, improved crop varieties, and sustainable farming practices tailored to Africa's specific needs and challenges.

Lastly, policy frameworks that prioritize agribusiness and create an enabling business environment are vital. Governments should implement supportive policies that promote land tenure security, access to markets, and favorable taxation regimes for agribusinesses.

La filière café-cacao de la Côte d'Ivoire bénéficie d'un appui de l'État

Par Yosua Domedjui,

Ce jeudi 25 mai 2023, au cours d'une conférence de presse à Abidjan-Plateau, le ministre d'Etat chargé de l'Agriculture et du Développement rural, Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani, a donné des informations sur la gestion du fonds Covid-19 destiné aux producteurs et exportateurs nationaux de la filière café-cacao. Il a décrit en détail les actions éligibles au PURGA qui ont été planifiées et qui ont bénéficié du montant susmentionné.

Le ministre de l'Agriculture a mentionné l'appui aux coopératives agricoles de café-cacao, la dotation des producteurs en produits phytosanitaires et en machines agricoles, l'appui à la réduction du prix bord champ garanti pour la campagne 2020-2021, et l'appui aux entreprises nationales d'exportation et de transformation du café-cacao. Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani a précisé qu'au 31 mars 2023, 2 440 entreprises coopératives répondant aux critères ont gagné chacune 2 millions de FCFA, soit 4,880 milliards de FCFA, selon le rapport du Conseil du Café-Cacao sur l'appui aux coopératives agricoles de café-cacao.

Afin d'atteindre les producteurs individuels, des produits et équipements d'une valeur de 2.250.999.965 FCFA ont été fournis aux producteurs sous forme de produits phytosanitaires et d'équipements agricoles.

30 entreprises coopératives qui ont produit une documentation sur la perte subie (250 FCFA/kilogramme) sur le prix du cacao pendant la saison intermédiaire 2020-2021 ont gagné un total de 3,5 milliards de FCFA en appui à la réduction du prix bord champ garanti pour la saison cacaoyère 2020-2021.

Au 31 mars 2023, 21 exportateurs et transformateurs nationaux de café-cacao ayant présenté des documents attestant de leurs pertes dues à la Covid-19 avaient reçu un paiement total de 4,525 milliards de FCFA à titre d'aide à leurs entreprises.

Kouadio Konan Bertin, ministre du rapprochement et de la cohésion nationale, et Yves Brahima Koné, directeur général du Conseil Café-Cacao, étaient également présents à la conférence de presse.

Production des semences de qualités

Par Yosua Domedjui,

La production de semences est un processus crucial dans l'agriculture moderne. Les semences de qualité sont essentielles pour obtenir de bonnes récoltes et pour améliorer la résilience des plantes face aux maladies et aux conditions climatiques extrêmes. Pour produire des semences résilientes, plusieurs facteurs jouent un rôle clé dans la production, notamment les systèmes d'irrigation et les pratiques culturales.

Les systèmes d'irrigation jouent un rôle important dans la production de semences de qualité supérieure. Les plantes ont besoin d'une quantité adéquate d'eau pour se développer et produire des semences à leur plein potentiel. Les systèmes d'irrigation modernes, tels que les goutte-à-goutte, permettent de contrôler avec précision la quantité d'eau fournie aux plantes. Cela réduit les pertes d'eau dues à l'évaporation ou à l'écoulement, tandis que la quantité d'eau utilisée est optimisée pour que les plantes puissent se développer sainement.

Les pratiques culturales sont également essentielles pour la production de semences de qualité. Les pratiques culturales comprennent la façon dont les cultures sont plantées, fertilisées, arrosées, taillées et récoltées. Des pratiques culturales bien planifiées peuvent aider à réduire les maladies des plantes, à améliorer la qualité des semences et à augmenter les rendements.

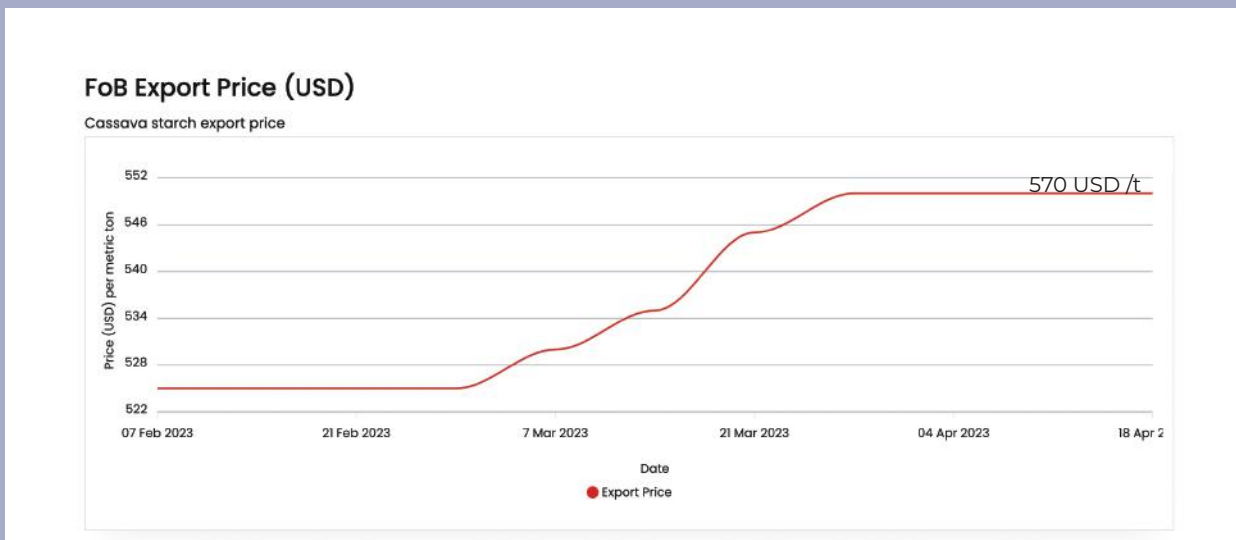
En fin de compte, la production de semences nécessite des efforts collaboratifs. Les agriculteurs, les sélectionneurs, les producteurs de semences et les entreprises agricoles doivent travailler ensemble pour adopter les pratiques les plus efficaces et durables. Ensemble, ils peuvent produire des semences de qualité supérieure, essentielles pour soutenir notre alimentation et notre environnement.



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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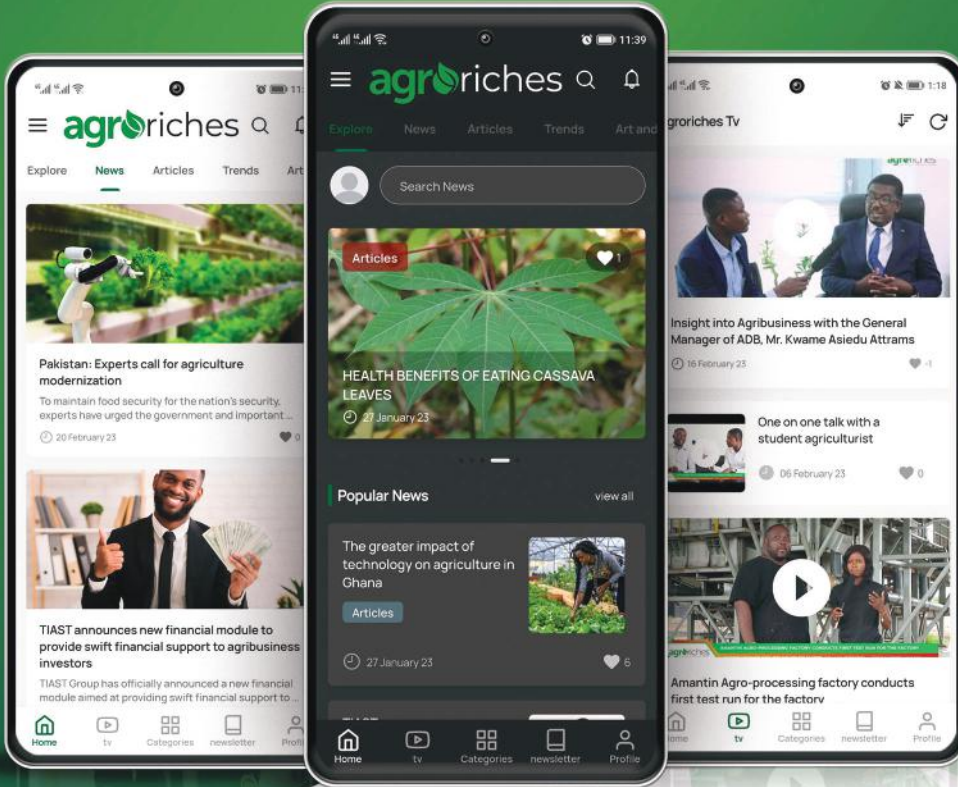
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