

agriches



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GHANA TODAY

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ARTICLE

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A GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY

OCTOBER 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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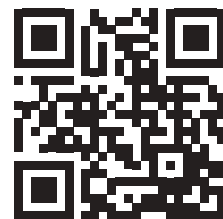
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CONTENTS



EDITORIAL 04

More Technical Training Needed in Agriculture Sector

CROP PROFILE 05

Lingon Berries

GHANA TODAY 06

President urges financial institutions to support agric sector

CONTINENTAL DIGEST 07

NAQS Launches E-Phyto Platform to Boost Agricultural Export Quality and Efficiency

WORLD NEWS 08

Chilean Fruit Exporters Gain Access to Chinese Market for Peaches and Apricots

ARTICLE 09

Investing in Agribusiness to cultivate opportunities for Prosperity

TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS 10

Gas Chromatographs in Agriculture

INSIGHT AFRICA 12

Enhancing African Agricultural Products to Meet International Standards

CENTRE SPREAD 14

A Global Opportunity

THE PLATTER 16

Lingon Berry Butter

ARTICLE 17

Agroecology: Harmony with Nature

ARTICLE 21

The need for sustainable agricultural policies to support the welfare of farmers

NOTRE CHRONIQUE 22

Les conditions de vie des fermiers en zone rurale

NOTRE CHRONIQUE 23

L'Afrique face à la révolution agricole : défis et potentiel



More Technical Training Needed in Agriculture Sector

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

The agriculture sector, the backbone of many economies worldwide, is undergoing a transformation driven by technology and innovation.

As modern farming practices evolve, there is a growing need for a workforce well-versed in technical skills and knowledge. Unfortunately, the current workforce often lacks the training required to fully harness the potential of these advancements.

One of the critical reasons for an increased focus on technical training in the agriculture sector is the rapid adoption of precision agriculture technologies. From drones and sensors to data analytics and automation, modern agriculture relies on these tools to optimize production and minimize resource use. Without adequate training, farmers and agricultural professionals may struggle to implement and utilize these technologies effectively.

Moreover, climate change poses new challenges that demand innovative solutions. Technical training can equip individuals with the skills needed to adapt to changing weather patterns, optimize resource use, and implement sustainable practices that mitigate the environmental impact of agriculture.

To meet these challenges and seize the opportunities offered by advanced technology, governments, educational institutions, and industry stakeholders must invest in comprehensive technical training programs. These initiatives can empower the agriculture workforce, ensuring that they are well-prepared to lead the sector into a more productive, sustainable, and resilient future.



Lingon Berries

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

Lingon Berry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) is a small red berry belonging to the Ericaceae family. Its other names include partridgeberry, alpine berry, cowberry, foxberry, mountain cranberry, and rock cranberry. It has smooth skin and tastes slightly sweet and tart.

Description

Lingonberries are round to oval fruits measuring roughly one centimetre in diameter. They vary in colour from pale red to scarlet and usually grow as shrub plants. The flesh contains very little juice but many small seeds.

Origin

Lingonberries are native to the Scandinavian regions of Northern Europe, where they are collected from the wild and used in making jams, chutneys, and sauces.

Health Benefits

Reduced Risk of Cancer

A 2018 study found that fermented lingonberry juice had an anticarcinogenic effect on oral cancer cells, inhibiting their growth and spread. Lingonberries are rich in phytochemicals and polyphenols, which prevent cancer by preventing tumour growth.

Promotes heart health

The high polyphenol and fibre content of lingonberries may promote cardiovascular health. Anthocyanins, which are responsible for the red colour of lingonberries, may also protect heart cells from oxidative damage.

Promotes gut health

A 2021 study found that lingonberries can beneficially modify the gut microbiota and prevent inflammation in the liver and fat tissue.

Contains antioxidants

Lingonberries contain more antioxidants than many other berries. It contains antioxidant compounds such as manganese, vitamin C, and anthocyanins, which protect against oxidative cell damage and also protect against inflammatory diseases.





President urges financial institutions to support agric sector

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has called on financial institutions to increase their support for the agriculture and agribusiness sector in Ghana, expressing concern over the inadequate credit facilities provided to the industry.

He emphasized that boosting financial support to agriculture would contribute to the country's GDP growth.

The President's remarks were made during a panel discussion at the second Presidential breakfast meeting on agriculture and agribusiness financing in Accra.

The event brought together chief executives of financial institutions and other stakeholders to explore opportunities for resource mobilization in support of the agricultural sector through collaborative efforts between the sector and financial institutions.

President Akufo-Addo highlighted the insufficient allocation of loan portfolios to the agricultural sector by various financial institutions. For example, ADB Bank provided only 24% of its loans to agriculture, while Fidelity Bank allocated 10%, Ghana Commercial Bank 25%, and Opportunity International, a savings and loans company, disbursed about 27% of its loans to 22,000 farmers.

The President noted that the allocation of loans to the sector fell short of addressing the industry's needs, given that there are 3.5 million farmers in Ghana.

President Akufo-Addo praised the hardworking nature of farmers and stressed the

importance of financial institutions supporting them to enhance their capacity and productivity.

The Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Brian Acheampong, discussed the transformation of the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) program into an input credit system.

He urged financial institutions to align their strategies with the national development agenda, emphasizing that a change in approach was necessary to achieve different results.

In the poultry sector, the intervention is expected to result in an additional 13,200 metric tonnes of poultry meat by the end of the year, increasing self-sufficiency to seven percent. The minister also revealed plans to rehabilitate 300 outgrower poultry farms across the country over the next 12 months.

Additionally, he mentioned efforts to attain self-sufficiency in rice production by 2028, with a target of 3.31 million metric tonnes of paddy production. These developments indicate a commitment to strengthening the agricultural sector in Ghana through increased financial support and strategic interventions.





NAQS Launches E-Phyto Platform to Boost Agricultural Export Quality and Efficiency

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

The Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS) has launched an electronic system for issuing phytosanitary certificates to exporters, aimed at expediting the process and improving the quality of Nigerian agricultural products destined for international markets.

A phytosanitary certificate is an official document issued by governments to confirm that plant or agricultural products being traded internationally are free from pests and diseases, ensuring their safety for import.

Previously, there were complaints from other countries about the quality and safety of farm produce exported from Nigeria, as the lengthy process of obtaining phytosanitary certificates from the NAQS impacted the quality of the products by the time they reached their destination.

Experts gathered at the official launch of the IPPC GeNS E-Phyto platform in Lagos, where exporters can input necessary information about their products and secure inspection appointments with the NAQS.

At the event, a representative of the Alliance for Trade Facilitation, Bernard Taylor, emphasized the significance of transitioning from traditional paper-based certificates to digital ones, emphasizing that it signifies a move toward modernization, efficiency, and sustainability.

Taylor explained that this shift is more than a technological upgrade; it represents a commitment to transparency, efficiency, and trade facilitation. It demonstrates a shared dedication to ensuring that Nigerian agricultural exports meet international standards, save time and costs, and en-

hance the ease of doing business. The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, he noted, is proud to collaborate with the NAQS in this endeavor, aiming to equip Nigeria with the tools and knowledge required to enhance trade competitiveness, economic resilience, and agricultural sector protection.

The digitalization of phytosanitary certificates is expected to streamline processes, reduce paperwork, minimize errors, and enhance the traceability of agricultural products.

Dr. Joy Ivbade, the Zonal Coordinator of the South-West Zonal Command at NAQS, expressed gratitude to organizations such as the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), GIZ, and the World Economic Forum for their assistance in acquiring the necessary equipment for the smooth operation of the GeNS platform.



Chilean Fruit Exporters Gain Access to Chinese Market for Peaches and Apricots

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Chilean fruit exporters are celebrating a significant development as China opens its doors to Chilean peaches and apricots.

This market access opportunity arises following the signing of a protocol in Beijing, underlining the strengthening ties between the two nations.

The protocol is part of a series of agriculture agreements signed by Chilean President Gabriel Boric and Chinese President Xi Jinping during President Boric's visit to China to attend the Belt and Road Forum.

The access to the Chinese market for peaches and apricots is expected to create fresh opportunities for Chilean stone fruit producers and exporters, thanks to the strong demand for these fruits in China, according to the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture.

Chilean Agriculture Minister Esteban Valenzuela emphasized the significance of the new protocol, particularly for the regions where peach and apricot production is concentrated.

He stated, "We're delighted that peaches from Central Chile and apricots, which are such an important crop in Valparaíso and the Coquimbo region, especially the province of Choapa, among other areas, will be part of Chilean fruit supply to China."

Iván Marambio, President of Asoex (Chilean Fruit Exporters Association), who accompanied President Boric to China, also welcomed the new market access.

He pointed out that this protocol not only expands exports to China

but also positions Chile as the first country to secure access for virtually all its fruits to enter the Chinese market.

Marambio highlighted the strong relations between the two nations and the cooperative efforts of the agricultural sector, the Ministry of Agriculture, and SAG (Agriculture and Livestock Service) to deliver high-quality and safe fruit to consumers.

Before exports can commence, Chinese inspectors from the Animal and Plant Quarantine Department will conduct a technical visit to Chile to audit operations.

Chile exported 270,000 tonnes of stone fruit in 2022, with plums accounting for the largest share by volume (59%), followed by nectarines (31%), peaches (10%), and apricots (0.38%).

China served as the primary destination, receiving 134,000 tonnes, comprising about 50% of total exports, followed by the US with 52,000 tonnes (19%).



Investing in Agribusiness to cultivate opportunities for Prosperity

By Jessica Meledi



Agribusiness, often referred to as the "green gold," has proven to be a lucrative and sustainable investment for those seeking opportunities in the financial world. While it might not always grab headlines like the tech industry, agribusiness offers a myriad of benefits and a stable, long-term return on investment that appeals to a broad spectrum of investors.

One of the key reasons why investors should consider agribusiness is its resilience in the face of economic uncertainty. Agriculture is a fundamental industry that supplies the world's food, fiber, and energy needs, making it less susceptible to economic downturns. People need to eat, and this fundamental necessity ensures that the demand for agricultural products remains consistent, providing a buffer against market fluctuations.

As the global population continues to grow, so does the demand for food. By 2050, the world's population is expected to reach nearly 10 billion. To meet this demand, agriculture must become more efficient and productive. This growth in demand creates an ongoing opportunity for agribusiness investors.

Agribusiness is not stuck in the past. Modern agriculture benefits from rapid technological advancements, including precision farming, automation, and data analytics. These innovations improve productivity, reduce resource usage, and increase profitability. Investors can capitalize on the growth potential of agtech companies that are driving these changes.

Agribusiness also offers investors a unique form of diversification. Traditional investment portfolios typically include stocks, bonds, and real es-

tate. Adding agriculture to the mix provides an alternative asset class that can help spread risk and reduce overall portfolio volatility.

Investing in agribusiness often involves owning tangible assets, such as land, crops, and equipment. These assets have intrinsic value and can be used as collateral for loans or sold in times of need.

Agribusiness presents a compelling investment opportunity for those looking to secure their financial future, contribute to sustainable development, and diversify their investment portfolios. With its stability, long-term growth potential, and alignment with ethical and environmental values, agribusiness can be an excellent addition to an investor's strategy. As the world's population continues to grow, so too will the demand for food and agricultural products, making agribusiness a promising sector for years to come.

Gas Chromatographs in Agriculture

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

In an age where technological advancements are revolutionizing nearly every industry, agriculture is no exception. The advent of cutting-edge technologies has ushered in a new era of farming, known as precision agriculture. One such indispensable tool in the precision agriculture toolkit is the gas chromatograph. This analytical instrument plays a pivotal role in enhancing crop quality, ensuring food safety, and promoting sustainable farming practices.

What is a Gas Chromatograph?

A gas chromatograph (GC) is a laboratory device that separates and analyzes compounds present in a gaseous or vaporized form. It relies on the principles of chromatography, where a sample is vaporized and introduced into a column.

Applications in Agriculture

Pesticide Residue Analysis: Gas chromatographs are instrumental in analyzing pesticide residues in crops. Farmers and regulators can use GC to detect and quantify the levels of pesticides present in fruits, vegetables, and grains. This ensures that produce is safe for consumption and compliant with regulatory standards.

Flavor and Aroma Analysis: GC is employed to assess the flavor and aroma compounds in fruits, vegetables, and other crops. This is especially im-

portant in the production of high-value crops like wine, coffee, and spices. By understanding the chemical makeup of flavors, farmers can optimize cultivation practices to enhance product quality.

Crop Disease Detection: GC can identify volatile organic compounds emitted by plants in response to stress or disease. By analyzing these compounds, researchers can detect diseases in crops at an early stage, allowing for more effective disease management.

Seed Quality Assurance: GC is used to assess the quality of seeds by analyzing the lipid and fatty acid profiles. This ensures that only high-quality seeds are planted, increasing the likelihood of healthy and robust crops.

In conclusion, gas chromatographs have emerged as essential tools in modern agriculture. They empower farmers, researchers, and regulators to make data-driven decisions that enhance crop quality, safety, and sustainability. As technology continues to advance, the integration of GC and other analytical instruments into agricultural practices will likely play a pivotal role in meeting the challenges of feeding a growing global population while safeguarding the environment.



WHEN DOES RAINFALL BECOMES TOO MUCH FOR SOIL?

By Prince Opoku Dogbey



ainfall is undeniably crucial for nourishing crops and sustaining ecosystems. However, just as drought can harm the soil, excessive rainfall can also have detrimental effects on its health. So, how much is too much when it comes to rain?

When the soil receives an abundance of rainfall over a short period, several problems may arise. Firstly, soil erosion becomes a significant concern. The force of heavy raindrops can dislodge soil particles, leading to topsoil runoff. This topsoil contains vital nutrients and organic matter, so its loss can severely affect soil fertility.

Excessive rain can also result in waterlogged soil. When the soil remains saturated for extended periods, it lacks the necessary oxygen for root respiration and the survival of beneficial soil microorganisms. This condition can lead to reduced crop yields and even plant suffocation.

Additionally, heavy rainfall can leach essential nutrients, such as nitrogen and potassium, deeper into the soil, making them less accessible to plants. This can necessitate increased fertilization, leading to higher costs and potential environmental concerns.

In conclusion, while rain is essential for healthy soil and robust plant growth, too much of it in a short time can pose significant challenges. Soil erosion, poor aeration, and nutrient leaching are all potential consequences of excessive rainfall. Thus, achieving the right balance of moisture is crucial for maintaining soil health and ensuring sustainable agriculture.

ENHANCING AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO MEET INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

By Jessica Meledi

In the vast and diverse landscapes of Africa, agriculture has been a lifeline for countless communities, providing sustenance, employment, and a sense of identity for generations.

Across the continent, farmers till the land and cultivate a rich array of crops that not only feed the local population but also contribute significantly to global food supplies.

Despite abundant agricultural resources, African producers face challenges in accessing international markets due to quality, safety, and adherence to global standards. To compete, they must enhance product value, comply with international standards, and offer unique qualities to resonate with consumers.

Value-added agriculture generally focuses on production or manufacturing processes, marketing or services that increase the value of primary agricultural commodities,

perhaps by increasing appeal to the consumer and the consumer's willingness to pay a premium over similar but undifferentiated products.

One-way African producers can meet the standard and compete with other markets is by processing the food produce. Food processing involves converting raw agricultural products into various processed foods.

Techniques such as canning, freezing, drying, fermenting, and juicing are used to preserve the products, improve flavor, and extend shelf life. For example, fruits can be processed into jams, sauces, and fruit leather. Another strategy that can be adopted is effective packaging and branding. It plays a significant role in adding value to agricultural products. Attractive and informative packaging not only protects the product but also influences consumer purchasing decisions. Proper labeling and branding create a unique identity for the product, helping it stand out in the market.

Adding value to agricultural products offers numerous benefits, such as increased profitability for farmers and agribusinesses, diversification of product range, and potential for niche markets. Also, Value-added products allow farmers to diversify their product range, catering to different consumer segments and markets. Techniques like preservation and processing extend the shelf life of agricultural products, reducing post-harvest losses due to spoilage. This allows farmers to tap into diverse consumer segments and markets.



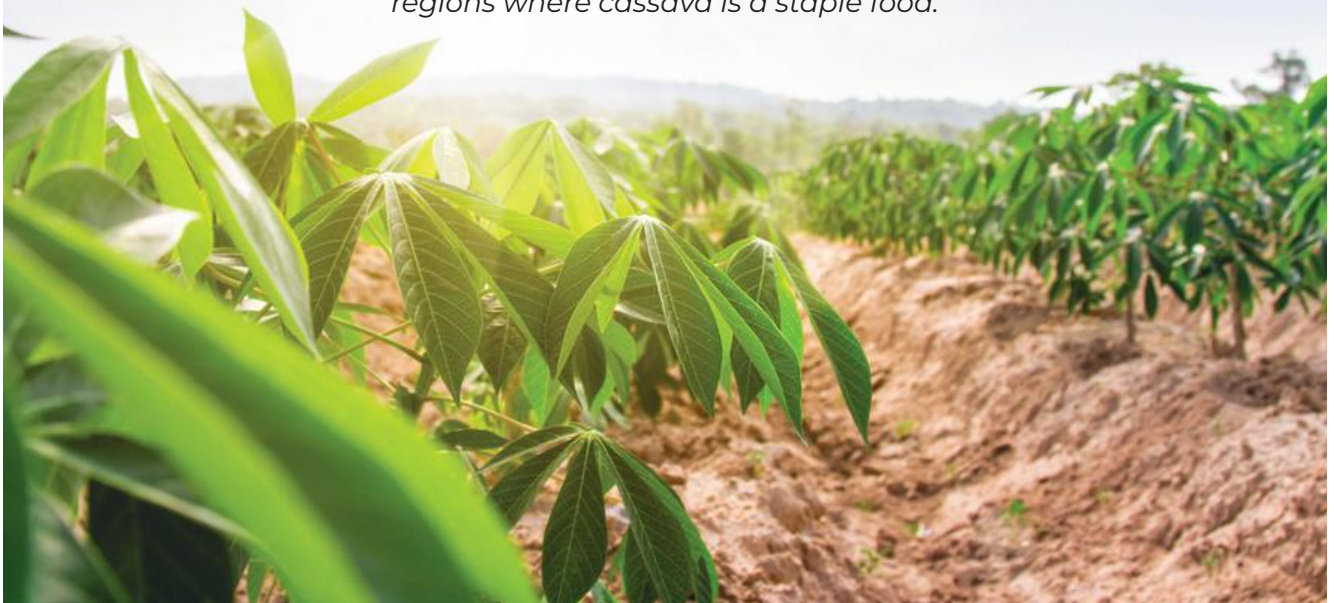


Edible Plants

There are over 50,000 edible plants on Earth, but just a few, such as wheat, rice, and maize, provide the majority of the world's food.

Cassava leaves

Cassava leaves are a rich source of protein, vitamins, and minerals. These nutrient-packed leaves can be a valuable addition to diets in regions where cassava is a staple food.





A Global Opportunity

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

As the world's population continues to grow, reaching an estimated 9.7 billion by 2050, the need for sustainable and efficient food production has never been more critical. Agriculture, often seen as a traditional industry, is now emerging as a global opportunity, offering innovative solutions to feed the world, combat climate change, and promote economic growth.

Feeding a Growing Population

Feeding a rapidly expanding global population is one of the most significant challenges we face today. Agriculture, as the primary source of food production, plays a pivotal role in meeting this challenge. By harnessing technology and embracing modern farming practices, we can significantly increase crop yields, ensuring an adequate food supply for the future.

Innovations such as precision agriculture, genetically modified crops, and vertical farming are transforming the way we produce food. Precision agriculture utilizes data and technology to optimize farming operations, from planting to harvesting. Genetically modified crops are engineered to be more resilient and productive. Vertical farming allows us to grow crops in controlled environments, eliminating the limitations of traditional soil-based farming. These innovations are creating opportunities for sustainable, high-yield agriculture on a global scale.

Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship

Agriculture is not only about increasing food production; it is also about ensuring the sustainability of our planet. Sustainable agriculture practices, which focus on minimizing environmental impact and conserving resources, are a global opportunity that benefits both farmers and the environment.

Crop rotation, reduced tillage, and organic farming methods promote soil health and prevent degradation. Efficient water management and

drip irrigation systems conserve water resources. Additionally, sustainable practices like agroforestry, which integrates trees with agricultural crops, provide carbon sequestration, combat desertification, and enhance biodiversity.

Economic Growth and Job Creation

Agriculture has a significant economic impact globally. It is not just about food production but also about job creation, particularly in developing countries. Investing in agriculture can drive economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve livelihoods.

Beyond farming, the agriculture sector includes food processing, distribution, and marketing. It offers a wide range of employment opportunities, from farm labor to skilled agribusiness professionals. By supporting and investing in agriculture, governments and organizations can stimulate economic development, reducing dependence on subsistence farming and increasing income levels in rural areas.

Global Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

Agriculture presents a unique global opportunity in that it encourages collaboration and knowledge sharing across borders. The challenges faced by the agricultural sector are often universal, whether it's adapting to climate change, dealing with pest and disease outbreaks, or improving food safety standards. Global cooperation is essential to address these challenges effectively.

LINGON BERRY BUTTER

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

INGREDIENTS:

½ cup / 1 stick / 115g / 4 oz salted butter
at room temperature.

6 tbsp. / 115g / 4 oz lingon berry jam

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Combine and place the softened butter and lingonberry jam into a large mixing bowl.
2. Beat with an electric mixer until smooth and combined.
3. Using a rubber spatula, scrape down the sides of the bowl and whip until light and fluffy, for about 2 to 3 minutes.
4. Spoon the lingonberry butter into a glass jar or airtight container.
5. Keep the compound butter on the counter for up to 2 days, in the fridge for 10 days, or freeze for up to 2 months. Bring the butter to room temperature before serving by setting it out on the counter for 10 to 20 minutes.

SERVE. ENJOY THE FRUITY BUTTER WITH PANCAKES, WAFFLES, MUFFINS, SCONES, DINNER ROLLS, BISCUITS, AND SWEET BREADS.



Agroecology: Harmony with Nature

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

The 21st century earth is grappling with climate change, environmental degradation, food insecurity and an ever-growing population. As a result, the world is being challenged to produce more food to feed the population while ensuring that the soil and other resources can feed this generation and many others to come.

Sounds like a lot? It is quite a lot of pressure on our young shoulders, and as a result, the need for sustainable agricultural practices like agroecology, has never been more pressing.

Agroecology is a holistic approach to farming that promises not only to feed the world but to do so in harmony with nature. It is often called the "science of sustainable agriculture," as it is a dynamic and interdisciplinary field that bridges the gap between ecology and agriculture. At its heart, agroecology seeks to understand the complex interactions between crops, livestock, and the environment, and to harness these insights to create resilient and sustainable farming systems.

At first glance, agroecology might seem like a simple idea, but its implications are profound. This approach challenges the industrialized, monocultural practices that have dominated agriculture for decades. Instead, it encourages diversified farming, emphasizing local knowledge and practices. It promotes the use of natural processes to enhance soil fertility, pest control, and crop yield.

One of the central tenets of agroecology is the promotion of biodiversity. Unlike conventional monoculture farming, where vast fields of a single crop are the norm, agroecological systems encourage a variety of crops and even livestock within the same space. This diversity isn't just about having an array of tasty vegetables on your plate; it's a recipe for resilience.

One of the most exciting aspects of agroecology is its emphasis on biological pest control. Instead of relying on synthetic chemicals that harm the environment, beneficial insects and predators are encouraged to keep harmful pests in check. This not only reduces the ecological footprint of farming but also helps maintain a balance in nature.

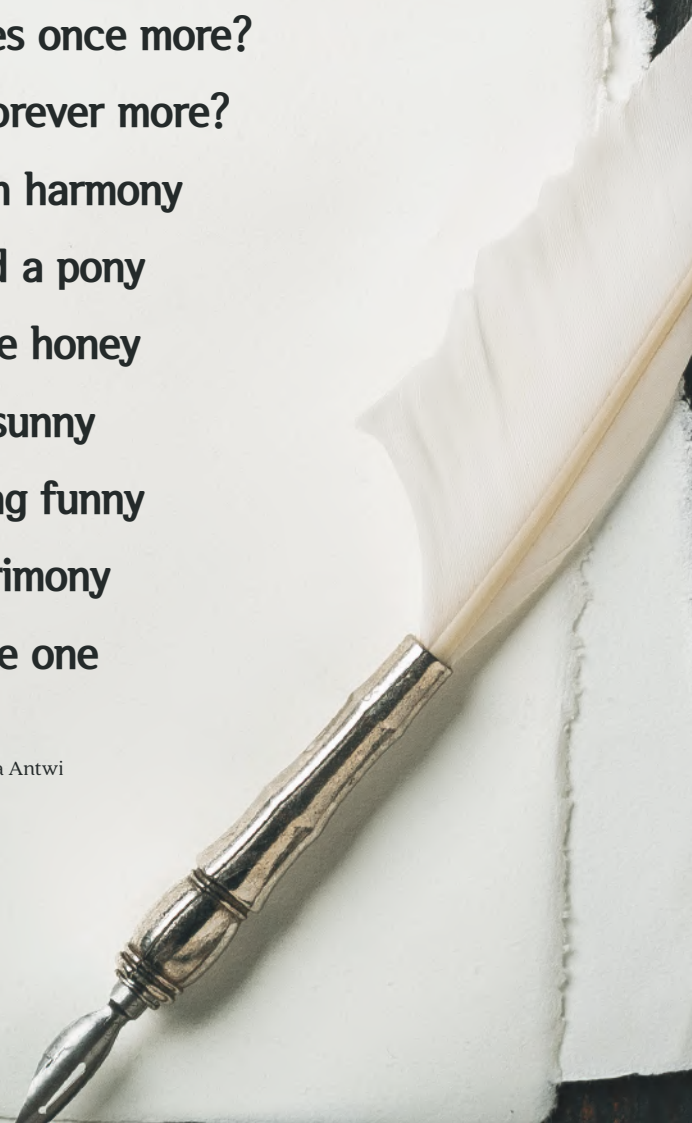
Despite it gaining grounds recently, agroecology is actually not a new concept. Indigenous and traditional farming practices have, for centuries, embodied many of its principles. What is new is the scientific recognition of the effectiveness and sustainability of these practices. Agroecological research is helping to quantify the benefits of traditional knowledge and integrate it with cutting-edge agricultural science.



That we May all be One

I'd wish for the bickering to stop
Us slashing and striking each another
the mangoes and oranges throwing blows
the river angry while its water overflows
Papa sprinkling impurities on the plants
As they pout their lips and refuse to yield
As the horses grow too tired to work the field
Can the birds sing melodies once more?
Can the farm be merry forever more?
I miss when we lived in harmony
when the horses had a pony
when papa called me honey
and the day was sunny
let's go back to being funny
Living in holy matrimony
That we may all be one

— Poem by Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi





The need for sustainable agricultural policies to support the welfare of farmers

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

In today's rapidly changing world, the need for sustainable agricultural policies has never been more pressing. Farmers, who toil tirelessly to feed nations and fuel economies, are at the forefront of this challenge.

To secure a sustainable future for agriculture, the government must play a pivotal role in creating and implementing policies that support farmers in their journey towards environmentally responsible, efficient, and resilient agriculture.

Governments must prioritise food security, ensuring a consistent supply of safe, affordable, and nutritious food. Sustainable agricultural policies are essential to guaranteeing a consistent supply of safe, affordable, and nutritious food for citizens. By adopting practices like crop rotation, organic farming, and integrated pest management, the government can help farmers adapt to changing conditions and reduce risks.

Sustainable agricultural policies, on the other hand, encourage eco-friendly farming methods, conservation of natural resources, and the protection of fragile ecosystems. By providing incentives for practices like agroforestry and the use of cover crops, governments can reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture, mitigating climate change and protecting our planet for future generations.

Also, sustainable agricultural policies can make farming a more economically viable profession, thus attracting new talent and retaining existing farmers. Financial incentives, access to affordable credit, and investments in agricultural infrastructure can alleviate the financial burden on farmers.

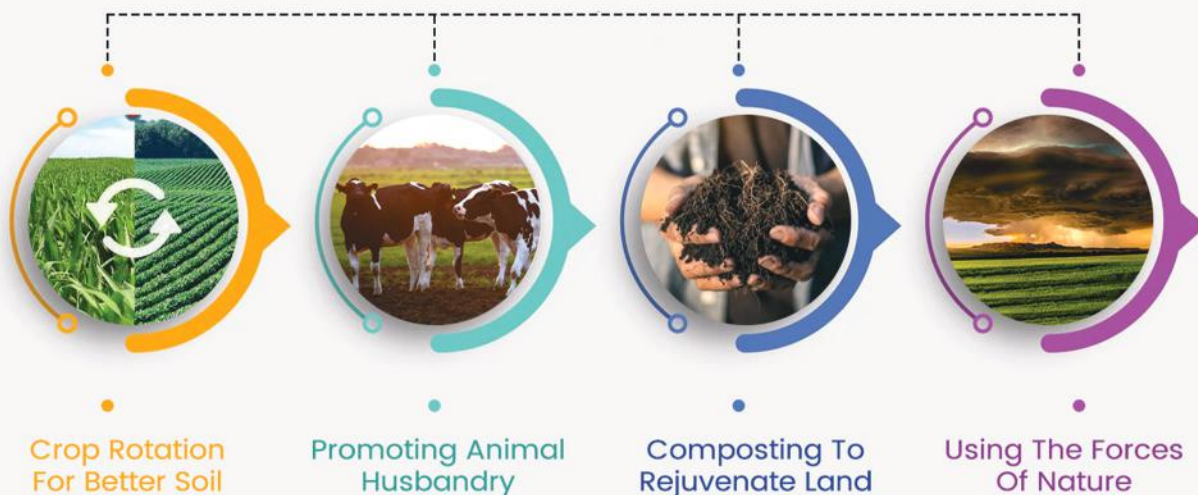
Farming is fraught with risks, from unpredictable weather patterns to the emergence of new pests and diseases. Sustainable agricultural policies equip farmers with the tools and knowledge to build resilient farming systems. Government support in research and development, along with the dissemination of best practices, can help farmers adapt to new challenges and overcome traditional ones.

Sustainable agriculture is not merely a choice; it is a necessity for the survival and prosperity of our society. Governments must recognise their vital role in supporting farmers in this transformative journey. By creating and implementing sustainable agricultural policies, they can ensure food security, protect the environment, boost rural economies, enhance the resilience of farming communities, and promote social well-being.



BIODYNAMIC FARMING

By Jessica Meledi



Biodynamic farming is a method that places a strong emphasis on the interconnectedness of all elements in the farming ecosystem. Developed in the early 20th century, it is often considered an advanced form of organic farming. The core principles of biodynamic including:

Enhanced Soil Health: Biodynamic farms prioritize soil health by using natural compost preparations, cover crops, and crop rotations. This leads to improved soil fertility and structure over time.

Biodiversity: Maintaining biodiversity is a cornerstone of biodynamic farming. Farms often include a variety of crops, plants, and animals to create a balanced and self-sustaining ecosystem.

Cosmic Rhythms: Biodynamic farming takes into account lunar and celestial cycles for planting and harvesting. Advocates believe that these rhythms can influence plant growth and health.

Closed-Loop Farming: Biodynamic farms aim to be self-sufficient. They produce their compost, seeds, and other inputs, minimizing reliance on external resources.

Minimal Chemical Use: Biodynamic farming restricts the use of synthetic chemicals, emphasizing natural pest control methods and the prevention of diseases through soil and plant health.

The benefits of biodynamic farming are varied for example, Biodynamic farming rejuvenates the soil by promoting microbial activity and organic matter content. This results in increased nutrient availability and improved soil structure.

Also, many proponents of biodynamic farming claim that the method yields crops with superior flavor, nutritional value, and overall quality due to its emphasis on soil health.

Biodynamic farming offers an innovative and sustainable approach to agriculture that aligns with growing consumer demand for environmentally friendly and health-conscious products. By focusing on soil health, biodiversity, and a holistic view of the farming system, biodynamic farming provides numerous benefits for both the farm and the environment. As the agricultural industry continues to evolve, biodynamic farming stands out as an attractive option for those seeking to harmonize nature, food, and sustainability on their farm.

Diet and Health

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

Diet and health share a profound connection that transcends mere sustenance. The food we consume serves as the foundation for our physical and mental well-being. A balanced, nutritious diet is instrumental in maintaining good health and preventing various diseases.

Consuming a variety of foods rich in essential nutrients – vitamins, minerals, protein, carbohydrates, and fats – provides the body with the raw materials it needs for growth, repair, and energy. A diet abundant in fruits and vegetables offers antioxidants that combat free radicals, reducing the risk of chronic diseases.

Furthermore, a well-balanced diet supports a healthy weight, reducing the likelihood of obesity and related conditions like heart disease and diabetes. It also aids in proper digestion, ensuring the body absorbs the maximum nutrients from food.

In mental health, a wholesome diet can positively impact mood and cognitive function. Nutrients like omega-3 fatty acids and B vitamins are known to support brain health, potentially reducing the risk of depression and cognitive decline.

Ultimately, diet is a potent tool for
By choosing nourishing foods, we
physical vitality and mental

cultivating a long and healthy life.
empower ourselves to enjoy both
well-being.



Les conditions de vie des fermiers en zone rurale

Par Pavel Chamabe



Les conditions de vie des fermiers en zone rurale en Afrique sont un sujet d'une grande importance. Les fermiers en zone rurale doivent faire face à de nombreux défis. Tout d'abord, l'accès aux ressources agricoles, telles que les terres arables, l'eau et les semences de qualité, est souvent limité. De plus, les fermiers peuvent également rencontrer des difficultés pour accéder aux marchés et aux infrastructures de transport, ce qui rend la commercialisation de leurs produits plus difficile.

En outre, les fermiers africains sont souvent confrontés à des problèmes liés aux changements climatiques, tels que les sécheresses, les inondations et les variations des précipitations. Ces événements climatiques extrêmes peuvent avoir un impact négatif sur les cultures et réduire les rendements agricoles.

Cependant, malgré ces défis, de nombreuses initiatives sont mises en place pour améliorer les conditions de vie de ces acteurs du secteur agricole. Par exemple, des programmes de formation agricole sont mis en place pour renforcer leurs compétences en matière de ges-

tion agricole, de techniques de culture durable et de commercialisation. De plus, des organisations et des gouvernements locaux soutiennent le développement des infrastructures agricoles, telles que l'irrigation, les systèmes d'entreposage et les routes rurales, afin de faciliter l'accès aux marchés.

L'adoption des technologies agricoles innovantes joue également un rôle clé dans l'amélioration des conditions de vie des fermiers en zone rurale en Afrique. Par exemple, l'utilisation de techniques de conservation des sols, de l'agriculture de précision et des systèmes d'irrigation améliorés peut contribuer à accroître les rendements agricoles et à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire.

En conclusion, les acteurs africains du domaine agricole en zone rurale font face à de nombreux défis, mais des initiatives et des mesures sont mises en place pour améliorer leurs conditions de vie. Il est essentiel de continuer à investir dans l'agriculture durable, les infrastructures agricoles et la formation agricole pour soutenir les fermiers africains et favoriser leur développement économique et social.

L'Afrique face à la révolution agricole : défis et potentiel

Par Pavel Chamabe

L'agriculture joue un rôle essentiel dans le développement économique et social de l'Afrique. Cependant, le continent est confronté à de nombreux défis dans le secteur agricole, tels que la faible productivité, l'accès limité aux ressources et aux technologies, ainsi que les effets du changement climatique. Malgré ces défis, de nombreux experts et acteurs du développement estiment que l'Afrique a le potentiel de réaliser une véritable révolution agricole.

L'Afrique possède d'immenses ressources naturelles et un climat favorable à l'agriculture. Le continent dispose de vastes terres arables, de ressources en eau et d'une grande diversité de cultures. Selon la Banque africaine de développement (BAD), l'agriculture africaine pourrait potentiellement nourrir non seulement sa propre population, mais aussi une grande partie du monde. Cependant, pour réaliser ce potentiel, des investissements et des réformes sont nécessaires.

Malgré le potentiel agricole de l'Afrique, le secteur est confronté à de nombreux défis. La faible productivité agricole, due à l'utilisation limitée de technologies modernes, est l'un des principaux obstacles à surmonter. De plus, l'accès aux marchés, aux financements et aux intrants agricoles reste limité pour de nombreux agriculteurs africains. Le changement climatique, avec ses effets sur les précipitations et les températures, aggrave également les défis auxquels est confrontée l'agriculture africaine.

Pour atteindre une révolution agricole en Afrique, plusieurs mesures doivent être prises. Tout d'abord, il est essentiel d'investir dans les infrastructures agricoles, telles que les routes, les systèmes d'irrigation et les entrepôts de stockage, afin de faciliter l'accès aux marchés et de réduire les pertes post-récolte. De plus, il est crucial de promouvoir l'utilisation de technologies agricoles modernes, telles que l'irrigation efficace, les semences améliorées et les pratiques de gestion durable des sols.

Les politiques agricoles favorables et les partenariats entre les gouvernements, le secteur privé et la société civile sont essentiels pour stimuler la révolution agricole en Afrique. Il est nécessaire de mettre en place des politiques qui favorisent l'investissement dans l'agriculture, la recherche et le développement, ainsi que l'accès aux financements pour les agriculteurs. Les partenariats entre les différents acteurs peuvent également favoriser le partage des connaissances, des technologies et des bonnes pratiques.

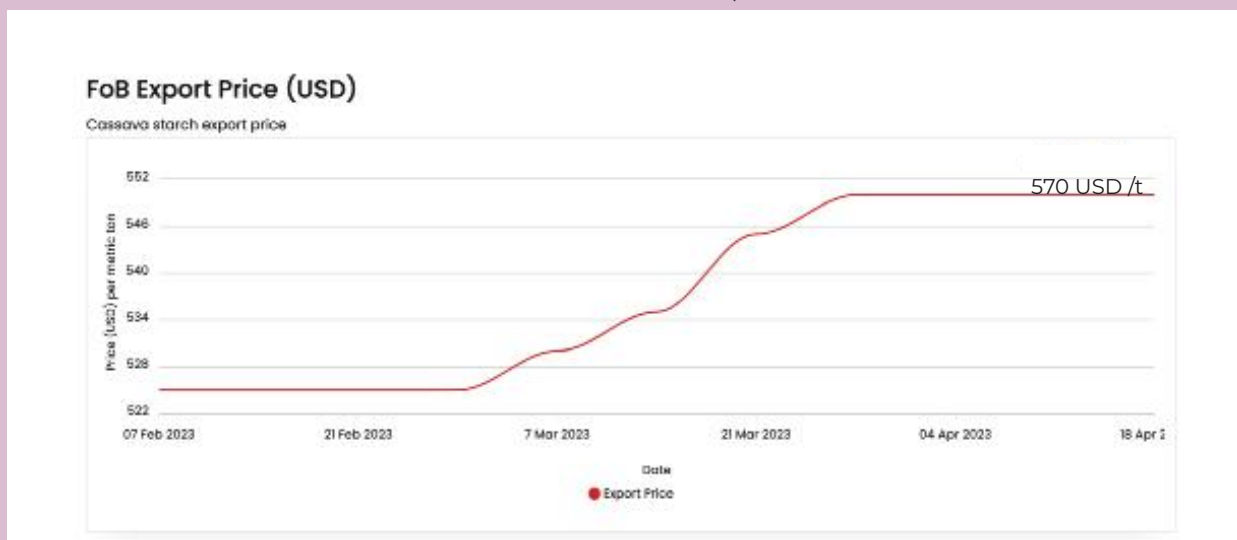
L'Afrique a le potentiel de réaliser une révolution agricole qui pourrait transformer le secteur agricole et contribuer à la croissance économique et à la réduction de la pauvreté sur le continent. En travaillant ensemble, les gouvernements, le secteur privé et la société civile peuvent créer les conditions propices à une agriculture productive, durable et résiliente en Afrique.



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.



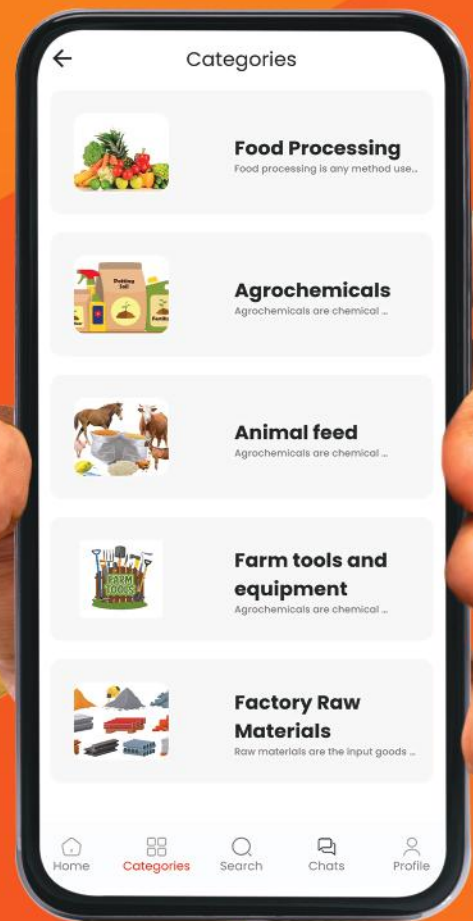
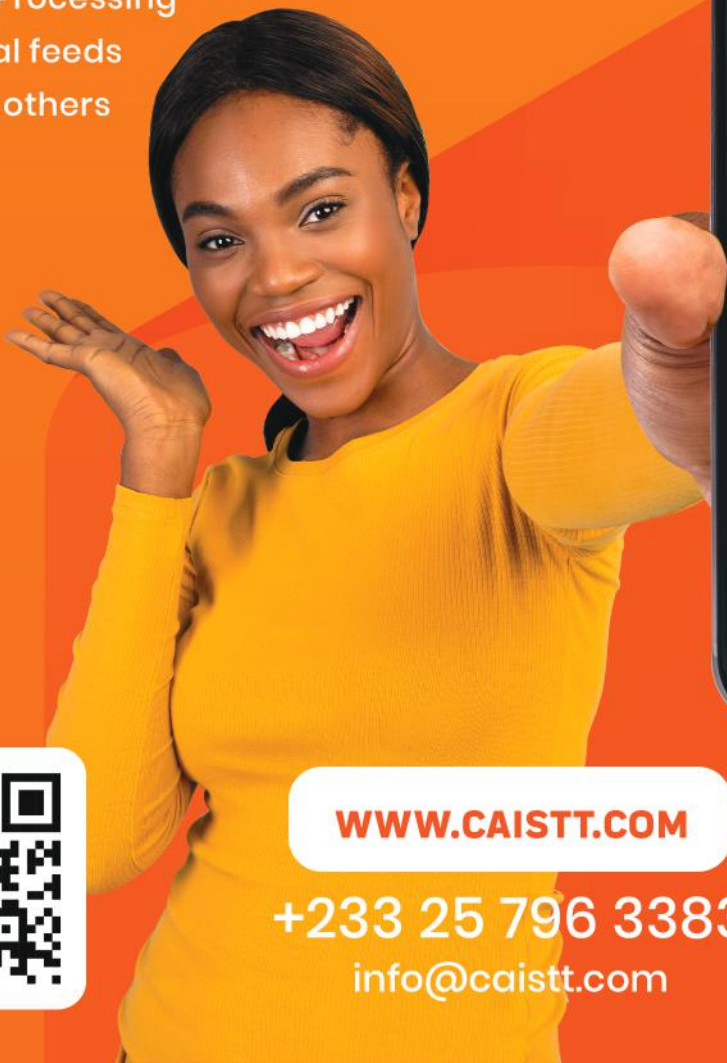
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