

agro**riches**

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GHANA TODAY

MTN Ghana and GrowForMe
Partner to Revolutionize
Agricultural Landscape

ARTICLE

Boosting Agribusiness Trade
Among African Nations

NOTRE CHRONIQUE

Nourrir le monde grâce à
l'industrie agricole

DR. ISHMAEL NII A. DODOO - SNR. POLICY ADVISOR, UN

THE **GROWTH** DRIVER

DECEMBER 2023



INVESTING IN AGRIBUSINESS IS A CRUCIAL FACTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



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 agricultural 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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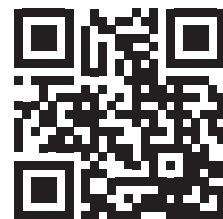
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OUR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION AGENDA IS AIMED AT PARTNERING WITH FARMERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES TO ADD VALUE TO THE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN.

KINDLY SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE.



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Sprinkle Sweetness with a Christmas Chocolate Surprise!

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

This Christmas, let's unwrap the joy of sharing and sprinkle some sweetness into the lives of our loved ones. What if, instead of the usual holiday treats, we sent a chocolate to someone special? Imagine the delight of receiving a box filled with an assortment of chocolates, each piece wrapped in festive colors and tied with a bow of holiday cheer.

Just like farmers carefully cultivate their crops, chocolatiers skillfully craft each delectable piece. It's a celebration of flavors, from rich dark chocolate to creamy milk chocolate, reminiscent of the diversity found in our agricultural landscapes.

To spread the joy, consider attaching a note that reads, "Wishing you a sweet and joyous Christmas season! Like farmers cultivating their fields, may your days be filled with abundance and happiness. Enjoy this chocolate harvest with all the love in the world."

So, why not break away from tradition and send a chocolatey surprise this Christmas? It's a fun and delicious way to celebrate the season of giving and acknowledge the sweetness in our lives.

“

To spread the joy, consider attaching a note that reads, "Wishing you a sweet and joyous Christmas season!"





Pak-Choy

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

This is again a variety of Chinese cabbage and is commonly used in stir-fry and spring rolls. Originally from China, it has become popular in European food and is now imported to India. It has several health benefits and is rich in vitamin C, magnesium, beta carotene, folic acid, calcium, and many essential minerals.

The crop Pak-choy, which belongs to the cabbage family, has several different names including, pak choi, bok,choy, and horse's ear. Chinese celery cabbage and white mustard cabbage. Yes, all these names represent just one crop, this explains how unique this crop is.

Origin

Originating from China, it is currently popular in Europe as it is used in preparing several dishes. In China, it is commonly used in stir-fries and spring rolls.

Description

Its structure looks like squat celery with white or very pale green, short, or chunky stalks and glossy deep green leaves. If the leaves are young, they can be eaten raw but taste best when cooked mildly. The texture of both leaves and stalks is crisp, and the flavour is somewhere between mild cabbage and spinach. If very young it can be eaten raw in salads, but is best when briefly cooked.

Nutritional Benefits

Rich in Antioxidants:

Bok choy is also rich in antioxidants, which are compounds that protect your cells from oxidative damage that can lead to inflammation and various chronic diseases. Vitamin C is one of the many antioxidants in bok choy.

Anti-cancer properties

Due to the sulfur-containing compounds called glucosinolates that are associated with cruciferous vegetables, scientists report that these vegetables have anticancer properties. Pak-Choy is also a rich source of the mineral selenium, which has anticancer benefits.

May Support Bone Health

Several minerals in Pak choy, including vitamin K, phosphorous, magnesium, calcium zinc, and iron play a role in helping maintain bone structure and strength.

MTN Ghana and GrowForMe Forge Transformative Partnership to Revolutionize Agricultural Landscape

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

MTN Ghana has joined forces with GrowForMe, a pioneering platform specializing in commodity financing, aggregation, and trading, to empower farmers across the country.

This partnership aims to bring about transformative changes in the agricultural landscape of Ghana.

The collaboration between MTN and GrowForMe is set to provide farmers with essential resources, market access, climate-resilient solutions, and valuable training. Through this innovative platform, farmers will gain access to crucial inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and machinery, fostering improved agricultural practices and increased productivity.

Dario Bianchi, the Chief Digital Officer of MTN, expressed pride in the transformative collaboration, stating, "We are proud to partner with GrowForMe in a transformative collaboration that will revolutionize agriculture in Ghana. With our extensive reach and resources, we aim to bring real change to the lives of farmers across the country."

Amabel Sefako Agbanu, the Head of Partnership at GrowForMe, emphasized the significance of the partnership, noting, "This partnership marks a significant milestone for us. We are excited to work hand-in-hand with MTN Ghana to support farmers in realizing their agricultural dreams while making food affordable and accessible to all. Together, we are empowering farmers for a brighter, more sustainable future."

The collaboration ensures that farmers not only have access to essential inputs but also opens avenues for them to connect with potential buyers. This guarantees that farmers' produce reaches ready markets, translating their hard work into profits. Additionally, farmers will benefit from training programs that equip them with the latest agricultural techniques, enhancing the sustainability of their businesses.

The GrowForMe platform allows funders and investors to finance inputs, commodity aggregation, and trade for a share of the profit at sales and harvest. Monthly updates on farm performance, convenient access to quality commodities for buyers, and instant payments for farmers selling their commodities are among the various uses of the platform.

Farmers and supporters can access this groundbreaking service through *170# on their mobile phones or the official GrowForMe website at www.growforme.com.





Commonwealth Secretariat and AGRA Partner to Digitally Transform Smallholder Agriculture in Africa

By Jessica Meledi

The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to harness digital innovations in a bid to revolutionize smallholder agriculture across the African continent.

The MoU aims to enhance agricultural production and trade by harmonizing agricultural data systems at the national level, utilizing a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) model. The recent Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting witnessed unanimous agreement on the development of resilient DPIs as a cornerstone for intra-Commonwealth trade and investment.

Under the MoU, the Commonwealth will facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues on 'National Agricultural Data Infrastructure (NAGDI)' and provide capacity building on 'National Digital Agriculture Strategies' in selected African countries. The NAGDI, a model of DPI, is being designed to support member countries in managing their agricultural data effectively.

The signing ceremony took place at COP28, the UN climate change summit in Dubai, with Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, and Dr Agnes Kalibata, the President of AGRA, formalizing the collaboration. The Secretary-General commended AGRA's achievements in Africa, emphasizing the Commonwealth's role in supporting member countries to leverage data for digital asset management.

Dr Kalibata highlighted the partnership's potential to advance Africa's food systems transformation, stressing the synergy to inspire action, attract investment, and reform policies for improved livelihoods in a sustainable and resilient environment.

With 21 member states in Africa, the Commonwealth and AGRA aim to closely collaborate, addressing significant agricultural challenges. The MoU outlines an implementation plan that reflects the shared commitment of both organizations to fostering sustainable development and growth on the continent.

This collaboration represents a new phase in addressing agricultural challenges in Africa, leveraging digital innovation and knowledge sharing within the Commonwealth.



South Korea Launches World's First Online Agricultural Wholesale Market

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in South Korea has officially inaugurated the Online Agricultural Wholesale Market, marking a pioneering leap in the digital transformation of agricultural product distribution.

Minister Chung Hwang-keun, speaking at the opening ceremony, highlighted the unprecedented nature of this online market and outlined the ministry's ambitious goal to cultivate it to a scale of KRW 3.7 trillion by 2027.

The groundbreaking Online Wholesale Market serves as a nationwide platform enabling unrestricted 24/7 transactions. Minister Chung emphasized the overarching objective of reducing wholesale distribution costs by KRW 700 billion, ensuring economic gains that benefit both producers and consumers alike.

This initiative aligns with the Yoon Seok Yeol administration's national agenda on Digital Innovation in Agricultural Produce Distribution.

The market's official commencement follows ten months of preparatory efforts since the establishment of a joint public-private task force in February.

This transformative venture aims to reshape the landscape of agricultural trade, fostering efficiency, accessibility, and economic growth in South Korea's agricultural sector.



The Hidden Symphony of Soil Health and Nutrient-Rich Crops

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

In the vast expanse of agricultural landscapes, there exists a crucial, often overlooked, symphony playing beneath the surface—the intricate dance between soil health and the nutrient density of crops. As we delve into the realms of sustainable farming, it becomes increasingly evident that the key to cultivating truly nourishing produce lies in nurturing the very foundation from which it springs—the soil.

The symbiotic relationship between soil health and nutrient-rich crops is a dynamic interplay governed by a multitude of factors. Healthy soil, teeming with a diverse community of microorganisms, is akin to a bustling city where each microbe plays a unique role in the intricate web of nutrient cycling. These microscopic workers break down organic matter, release essential nutrients, and create a fertile environment for plant roots to thrive.

One pivotal player in this underground orchestra is mycorrhiza fungi, forming a harmonious partnership with plant roots. These fungi extend the reach of roots, enhancing the plant's ability to absorb water and nutrients, creating a more resilient and nutrient-efficient system. As soil health improves, so does the plant's access to vital elements like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

Beyond the biological ballet, the physical structure of soil also plays a pivotal role. Well-structured soil with good aeration and water retention promotes robust root systems and facilitates nutrient uptake. Practices such as cover cropping and minimal tillage contribute to maintaining soil structure, preventing erosion, and fostering a healthy environment for crops to flourish.

In the quest for nutrient-dense crops, farmers are increasingly turning to regenerative agriculture practices. These methods not only prioritize soil health but also emphasize the importance of biodiversity, cover cropping, and crop rotation. By harnessing the power of nature's intricate balance, regenerative agriculture not only preserves the land for future generations but also yields crops with higher concentrations of essential vitamins and minerals.

Consumers, too, are recognizing the link between soil health and the quality of their food. As awareness grows, there is a rising demand for produce that not only tastes better but is also packed with the nutrients our bodies need. This shift in consumer preference is driving a positive feedback loop, encouraging farmers to adopt practices that prioritize the long-term vitality of the soil.

The connection between soil health and nutrient density in crops is a profound narrative unfolding beneath our feet. As we acknowledge and nurture this intricate relationship, we pave the way for a future where the fruits of our labor not only sustain us but also nourish us from the ground up, creating a resilient and regenerative cycle that benefits both the land and its stewards.

The Rise of Robotic Weeders in Agriculture

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

In the ever-evolving landscape of agriculture, technological advancements continue to revolutionize traditional farming practices. One such innovation making significant strides is the implementation of robotic weeders.

These autonomous machines are designed to tackle the age-old challenge of weed management with efficiency and precision.

Robotic weeders utilize sophisticated imaging systems and artificial intelligence to distinguish between crops and unwanted weeds. Equipped with precision tools, these machines can precisely target and remove individual weeds, minimizing the need for herbicides and manual labor. The result is not only a reduction in the environmental impact associated with chemical herbicides but also a more sustainable and cost-effective approach to weed control.

The benefits of robotic weeders extend beyond weed elimination. By automating the weeding process, farmers can save valuable time and resources, allowing for a more streamlined and productive agricultural operation. Additionally, the precision offered by these robots minimizes the risk of damage to surrounding crops, ensuring that the desired plants thrive while unwanted weeds are systematically removed.

As agriculture embraces the era of automation, robotic weeders stand as a testament to the industry's commitment to sustainability, efficiency, and technological innovation.

With the potential to revolutionize weed management practices, these robots are paving the way for a more sustainable and productive future in agriculture.



Do you know the role of warehouse and storage facilities in agriculture?

By Prince Opoku Dogbey



In the realm of agriculture, the significance of warehouse and storage facilities cannot be overstated. These facilities play a pivotal role in ensuring food security, minimizing post-harvest losses, and supporting sustainable agricultural practices.

Warehouses act as a buffer between production and consumption, allowing farmers to store their harvest in optimal conditions. This not only helps in preserving the quality of crops but also enables farmers to strategically time their sales, ensuring better market prices. Moreover, efficient storage facilities contribute to the reduction of post-harvest losses caused by factors such as spoilage, pests, and weather conditions.

For small-scale farmers, access to warehouses provides a means to break free from the constraints of immediate sales, allowing them to negotiate better deals and participate in commodity trading. Additionally, these facilities enable the accumulation of surplus produce during peak seasons, helping to stabilize prices in the market and ensuring a steady supply of agricultural products throughout the year.

In the context of global food security, warehouses play a critical role in times of scarcity. Governments and international organizations can strategically stockpile essential commodities, creating a buffer against unforeseen crises such as natural disasters or pandemics. Investing in modern storage technologies and infrastructure

is imperative for the growth of agriculture. Governments and private entities must collaborate to establish and maintain state-of-the-art warehouses that adhere to international standards. By doing so, we can foster a resilient agricultural sector, promote economic development, and ultimately contribute to a more food-secure world.



ENSURING A FOOD-SECURE TOMORROW WITH AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi



As our world continues to evolve, grappling with the challenges of a growing population, climate change, and scarce resources, the importance of agricultural education and training becomes increasingly apparent. These programs stand as pillars, imparting individuals with the knowledge and skills essential for thriving in the agricultural sector—a sector that not only underpins global economies but is also a pivotal contributor to nourishing our planet's ever-expanding populace.

Education and training empower farmers to embrace modern and sustainable farming techniques. Through these programs, farmers learn to maximize crop yields, optimize resource use, and implement efficient pest and disease management practices that ultimately promote productivity.

Moreover, education emphasizes the importance of sustainable agriculture, advocating for practices that reduce environmental impact, conserve resources, and maintain soil health for future generations. Traditional farming practices, inadequate for current environmental needs due to climate change effects such as droughts and floods, necessitate a shift towards modern, sustainable

approaches. Education becomes the bridge guiding farmers to these new trends and practices.

Agricultural training is a catalyst for innovation as it introduces farmers to new technologies and research findings. This exposure enables them to adapt to changing climates and market demands, fostering resilience in the agricultural sector.

As the global population is projected to reach approximately 9 billion by 2050, the role of a well-trained agricultural workforce becomes paramount in ensuring food security. While universities offer agricultural degree programs, I propose the integration of agricultural courses into our basic and secondary school curricula in Ghana. Every student should have a fundamental understanding of the processes involved in the production of their food. Such inclusion can spark the interest of the youth, encouraging them to consider a future in the agricultural sector.

Despite its undeniable importance, agricultural education in Ghana faces challenges such as limited access in rural areas, outdated curricula, and funding constraints. To address these issues, concerted efforts from the government, NGOs, and the private sector are essential to modernize and expand agricultural education and training programs in the country. By making these investments, farmers will be empowered with the knowledge and skills necessary to combat food insecurity, drive innovation, and build a resilient agricultural sector capable of feeding the world's ever-growing population. The nexus between education, training, and the future of agriculture cannot be overstated. It is a call to action for all stakeholders to prioritize and invest in these programs, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for the agricultural sector globally.

Companion Planting

Embracing the concept of companion planting can significantly contribute to pest control in crop farming.



Ginger Citrus Splash Juice

This juice can help boost your immune system, reduce the risk of certain cancers, promote heart health, alleviate nausea and vomiting, improve brain function and reduce pain.



THE GROWTH DRIVER, NEW DIRECTION

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

In a recent interview, Dr. Ishmael Nii Dodoo, Senior Policy Advisor at the UN Secretary-General's Office, shared insights into boosting Ghana's trade for substantial economic growth.

Addressing Trade Gaps and Geopolitical Importance

Dr. Dodoo delved into the noticeable trade gaps in Ghana, stressing the country's immense potential. Despite Ghana's strategic geopolitical positioning, trading at a modest 10 million dollars falls short of the 3.5 billion US Dollars potential. He emphasized the stability, rule of law, and intellectual capital that make Ghana stand out in West Africa. Suggesting a strategic overhaul, Dr. Dodoo questioned the underutilization of Ghana's resources like cocoa and gold. He underscored the need for comprehensive processing and value addition to unlock economic potential.

Key Areas for Economic Growth

Agribusiness Sector

Dr. Dodoo emphasized the agribusiness sector, advocating for extensive processing beyond cocoa cultivation. He proposed the production of diversified cocoa products and palm oil derivatives.

"Let's produce derivatives like lipsticks and various products.

Most of the foods we eat are imported, so we need to focus on agribusiness sector processing and industrialization," he emphasized.

Industrial Base for West African Economy

To boost the West African economy, Dr. Dodoo recommended creating an industrial base. Even without possessing all raw materials, Ghana could collaborate with neighboring countries to process and export goods.

He said, "Even if we don't have the raw materials, can we create an industrial base where we can feed our raw materials from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, then Ghana produces, processes, and packages for export?"

Environmental Accountability

Expressing concerns about illegal mining's environmental impact, Dr. Dodoo proposed holding individuals accountable for land and water body

destruction. He stressed the need for those contributing to environmental degradation to be financially responsible for their actions.

"I believe that a time would come when Ghana would need to import timber from other countries. We are destroying our lands and water bodies through illegal mining. For me, I would hold each and every one accountable and make them pay for the destruction caused," he stated.

Leadership Vision

Dr. Dodoo shared his vision for transformational leadership, aiming to shape Ghana's economy through strategic policy implementation. He emphasized citizen service, recognizing and nurturing the abilities of the youth, and promoting self-discipline and inspiration.

"I have a desire to help shape the economy of Ghana to be part of the lead systems in shaping policies and implementing them strategically," he indicated.

Climate Change Mitigation

Acknowledging climate change's impact, especially in the Sahel region, Dr. Dodoo highlighted the CO2 Capital Africa Project's efforts. Leveraging carbon sequestration through blockchain and market platforms, the initiative





Dr. Ishmael
NII A. DODOO

creates value for both farmers and landowners, with a potential value of 978 billion US Dollars per year, as indicated by the McKenzie report.

He stated, "The variability of the climate and its impact are really dangerous. What we are doing to mitigate the challenges posed by climate change is to leverage the carbon sequestration of forest lands or agricultural land."

In summary, Dr. Ishmael Nii Dodoo's insights provide a comprehensive view of strategies to unlock Ghana's trade potential, emphasizing agribusiness, industrialization, natural resource utilization, environmental accountability, transformational leadership, and climate change mitigation.

Profile

Dr. Ishmael Nii Amanor Dodoo, affectionately known as Dr. Ish, stands as a distinguished African Diplomat, Governance, and Development Expert. Currently, he is the Senior Policy Advisor to the United Nation Secretary-General Office for the Sahel region. With a career spanning over 25 years across 36 countries, he has played a pivotal role in shaping policy design and operational implementation, particularly in the realms of Africa's international diplomacy, geopolitics, governance, and human and economic development.

Dr. Ish has garnered extensive experience in various high-profile strategic advisory positions, demonstrating his multifaceted expertise. His impactful contributions have been felt across multilateral, government, private, and international development organizations. Notable among these are roles within the Executive office of the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General, the Offices of the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Sahel region, and UNDP Africa Bureau. Furthermore, Dr. Ish has been instrumental in advising African Eminent Statesmen, Heads of Governments, and former Heads of States. His strategic vision and leadership were crucial in leading the global strategy for ProForest Ltd in Oxford.

The PP Stir Fry

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

The Pak-choy and Prawn stir-fry, recipe, which I have nicknamed the PP is not your regular o! This PP does not stand for the "personal person" jargon perpetuating on social media, this one stands for the "palatable plate", pak-choy-prawn perfect combo. Yes! This dish will leave you creating hashtags on the gram, let's get right into it!

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tbsp sesame oil
- 100g mangetout
- 1 carrot, finely sliced²
- 200g Pak Choy, washed and sliced
- 2 spring onions, sliced on the diagonal
- 300g straight-to-wok egg noodles
- 150g cooked king prawns

- 2 tbsp soy sauce, plus extra to serve, (optional)
- 1 tbsp sesame seeds, toasted
- 1 red chili, sliced, to serve (optional)

PREPARATION

Heat 1 tbsp sesame oil in a large wok or frying pan over medium-high heat and toss in the mangetout and carrot.

Cook for a few minutes until it softens and darkens, then add the pak choy and spring onions.

Add the noodles and prawns, use tongs to combine, and warm through.

Pour everything in the soy sauce and remaining sesame oil, and toss to coat.

Just before serving, sprinkle some sesame seeds and chili. Serve with extra soy sauce, if preferred.





Why The Ghanaian Child Refuses To Be A Farmer

Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

I walked into a primary class one day and asked the kids what they wanted to be in future and the response was just as I expected, “astronaut, lawyer, doctor, nurse, etc.,”. However, none of them aspired to be a farmer, and it didn’t take long for me to understand why.” Throughout my childhood I never heard one classmate wanting to be a farmer. Every parent wants their child to be a doctor, lawyer, engineer and any other fancy job that may require a uniform, suit and tie or accord them the highest respect in society, anything but a farmer.

Parents often use family members engaged in farming as a lesson for their children, advising, “learn hard so you don’t end up like Uncle A or B, who farms to make a living in the village” and even the farmers, do not want their own children ending up like them. The lack of interest may have started at home with our parents, and continued in our schools as students who misbehaved were often given plots of land or the school farm to weed as forms of punishment. Gone were the days when almost every secondary school had a school farm and even poultry farms where kids worked on them as part of the curriculum and the produce was used to prepare food for students with the excess sold on the markets. This taught the kids how to grow their own food and even spiked their interest in agribusiness.

Recently, the subject is not taught in schools for students to appreciate the profession, know it’s importance or to even pique their interest in the field. Children are not taught where the food they eat comes from or how to even

grow them, and it’s the same in second cycle institutions as only a handful still teach Agric-science or have school farms.

Moreover, the Ghanaian media plays a limited role in elevating the status of farming in the eyes of its viewers. Movies feature actors like Agya Koo and Akrobeta(both popular Ghanaian actors) as poor farmers residing in villages while casting Bill Asamoah (also a popular actor), as the rich business man in the city, or a “borga”(a slang which refers to any individual who has been outside the country).

Looking back to the origin of humanity, farming was the first profession bestowed upon man in Genesis 2:15. As such, as kids are the future generation, we as Ghanaians need to end the cycle of according certain jobs more respect than others in the society so as to not carry on such perceptions to our young ones and the media should be mindful of their representation of farmers in their various outlets so as to steer clear from stereotyping. Also, reintroducing agriculture into our basic and secondary school systems will incorporate the importance of agriculture into our future leaders as one may be a doctor, lawyer, teacher, etc, but only the farmer, is responsible for our survival by providing food for all.

Ode to an Apple

In orchards green where sunlight weaves,
A ruby jewel 'mongst leaves it cleaves.

An apple hangs, a crimson dream,
A symphony of flavors in its seam.

Upon a branch, a world unfurls,
A universe within its swirls.
A crisp exterior, a sweet embrace,
Nature's gift, a tempting grace.

In dew-kissed morn or golden eve,
An apple's tale, enchanting weave.
Its skin, a canvas, a story untold,
A journey of seasons in colors bold.

From blossom fair to harvest's cheer,
An apple whispers, drawing near.
In every crunch, a whispered lore,
Of orchards vast and tales of yore.

Juicy nectar, nature's potion,
In every bite, a sweet devotion.
A lullaby in each crisp chew,
An apple's song, forever true.

So, hold this globe of crimson hue,
A treasure trove, both old and new.
In orchards green or market's cart,
An apple's song, a work of art.

Poem by Prince Opoku Dogbey

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR LIFESAVERS: THE FARMERS WHO KEEP US ALIVE!

By Nana Ama Oforiwaa Antwi

As we adorn our homes with twinkling lights and gather around festive tables, let's take a moment to extend a heartfelt "Merry Christmas" to the unsung heroes who keep us nourished and alive – our farmers!

Amidst the holiday merriment, it's easy to overlook the hardworking individuals who toil day in and day out to cultivate the food that graces our tables. So, here's a shoutout to the farmers who, like Santa's elves, work tirelessly to ensure we have an abundance of fresh produce and hearty meals during this festive season.

Picture this: Santa Claus exchanging his sleigh for a tractor, Rudolph guiding a plow through the snow-covered fields – that's the whimsical Christmas scene we paint to honor our farming community. They are the backbone of our sustenance, and their dedication deserves a place in our holiday celebrations.

So, as we deck the halls and feast on Christmas goodies, let's raise a toast to the farmers who keep our plates full and our hearts grateful. Merry Christmas to the lifegivers of our tables, the cultivators of joy, and the stewards of our well-being!



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Utilizing beneficial Insects for Pest Control Farming

By Jessica Meledi

In the world of agriculture, where the battle against pests is a never-ending struggle, nature has some allies that can make a significant difference. One valuable farm tip that many farmers might not be aware of is the use of beneficial insects for natural pest control.

Some of these beneficial insects include ladybugs, lacewings, parasitic wasps, and predatory beetles, among others. These insects are natural predators of common crop-damaging pests like aphids, caterpillars, and mites.

The benefits of these insects are numerous. For instance, the most significant advantage of using beneficial insects is the reduction in the need for chemical pesticides. This not only saves you money but also promotes environmentally friendly farming practices. Beneficial insects specifically target harmful pests, minimizing collateral damage to beneficial insects or pollinators like bees. Unlike chemical pesticides that may lose effectiveness over time due to pest resistance, beneficial insects offer a sustainable, long-term solution and reduce cost of manual labour.

How to Attract Beneficial Insects

Plant Diverse Crops: A variety of plants attracts a wide range of beneficial insects. Planting cover crops, flowering herbs, and companion plants can create an inviting habitat for them.

Minimize Pesticide Use: Reduce or eliminate the use of broad-spectrum pesticides that harm both harmful and beneficial insects.

Provide Shelter: Build insect-friendly habitats like hedgerows, beetle banks, or insect hotels to provide shelter and breeding grounds for beneficial insects.

Release Beneficial Insects: You can purchase beneficial insects from suppliers and release them strategically in your fields during the growing season.

Harnessing the power of beneficial insects is a farm tip that can revolutionize your pest management strategy. By working with nature's allies, you can protect your crops while reducing the environmental impact of farming. Consider integrating these tiny heroes into your agricultural practices and reap the benefits of chemical-free, sustainable pest control.



Boosting Agribusiness Trade Among African Nations

By Prince Opoku Dogbey

In the wake of economic globalization, there is a pressing need to amplify agribusiness trade among African nations. The continent's agricultural sector holds immense potential, and fostering intra-African trade can unlock new opportunities for economic growth, poverty reduction, and overall development.

One of the primary challenges facing African agribusiness is the fragmentation of markets. Many countries focus on individual self-sufficiency, leading to missed opportunities for collaboration and trade. By enhancing cross-border trade, African nations can harness the comparative advantages of different regions, promoting specialization and efficiency.

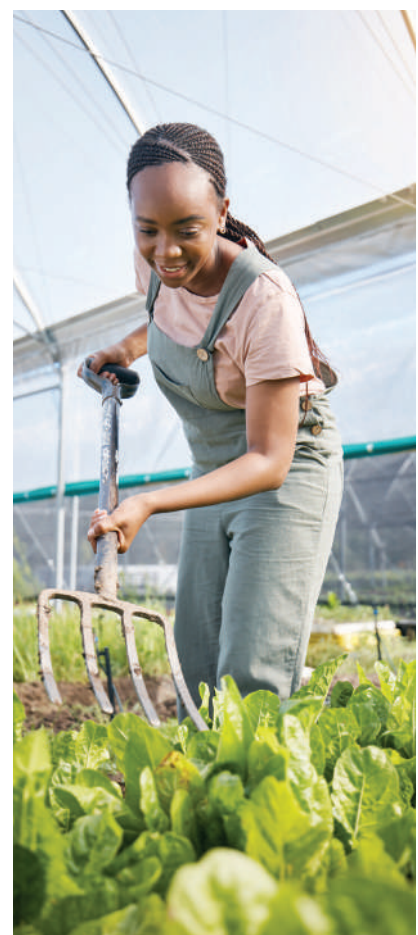
Improved infrastructure, such as transportation networks and trade routes, is essential for facilitating the movement of agricultural goods across borders. Governments and regional bodies need to invest in the development of efficient transportation systems to reduce trade barriers and transportation costs. This will not only benefit farmers and agribusinesses but also contribute to the creation of jobs and economic prosperity.

Harmonizing trade policies and regulations is another critical aspect of boosting agribusiness trade within Africa. Standardizing and simplifying trade procedures will reduce bureaucratic hurdles and encourage a more seamless flow of goods across borders. Furthermore, the establish-

ment of a common market and the free movement of goods can stimulate competition, innovation, and specialization in the agricultural sector.

Collaboration between African nations can lead to the sharing of knowledge and best practices, fostering a culture of innovation and sustainability in agriculture. By working together, African countries can collectively address challenges such as climate change, food security, and market access.

In conclusion, prioritizing and enhancing agribusiness trade among African nations is a pathway to unlocking the continent's agricultural potential. Through collaboration, infrastructure development, and policy harmonization, Africa can build a resilient and interconnected agribusiness ecosystem that benefits all nations involved.





Le changement climatique et l'agriculture

Par Enock Asune

Le changement climatique exerce une pression croissante sur le secteur agricole, menaçant la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Quelles sont les stratégies d'adaptation indispensables pour atténuer ces impacts ?

Tout d'abord, la diversification des cultures s'avère cruciale. Les agriculteurs doivent explorer et adopter des variétés résistantes aux conditions climatiques changeantes, réduisant ainsi la vulnérabilité des récoltes aux événements météorologiques extrêmes.

Ensuite, l'amélioration de l'efficacité de l'utilisation de l'eau constitue un aspect essentiel. Les technologies d'irrigation intelligentes et les pratiques de gestion de l'eau peuvent contribuer à une utilisation plus judicieuse des ressources hydriques, préservant ainsi la productivité agricole.

Par ailleurs, l'innovation technologique offre des outils permettant de surveiller et de prédire les changements climatiques, aidant les agriculteurs à prendre des décisions éclairées. Les drones, capteurs et modèles prédictifs sont devenus des alliés précieux dans la gestion

des exploitations agricoles face à l'incertitude climatique.

Enfin, la promotion de pratiques agricoles durables, telles que l'agroécologie, contribue à la résilience des écosystèmes agricoles. Cette approche intégrée favorise la régénération des sols, la conservation de la biodiversité et la réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre.

En conclusion, face aux défis du changement climatique, l'adoption de ces stratégies d'adaptation devient impérative pour assurer la durabilité et la résilience du secteur agricole.



Approches climato-intelligentes : naviguer sur la voie de la résilience agricole

Par Prince Kudowor

Face au changement climatique, l'adoption d'approches climato-intelligentes en agriculture est devenue impérative pour favoriser la résilience et assurer une production alimentaire durable. Cette stratégie proactive implique la mise en œuvre de pratiques qui atténuent non seulement l'impact du changement climatique, mais renforcent également la productivité agricole et la conservation de l'environnement.

Un aspect clé de l'agriculture climato-intelligente est le développement et la culture de cultures résistantes à la sécheresse et adaptées au climat. Ces cultures sont spécifiquement sélectionnées ou génétiquement modifiées pour résister aux conditions climatiques changeantes, assurant un rendement plus stable même en cas de pénurie d'eau. En incorporant de telles cultures dans les pratiques agricoles, les agriculteurs peuvent atténuer les risques liés aux modèles imprévisibles de précipitations.

Les technologies de l'agriculture de précision jouent également un rôle crucial dans les approches climato-intelligentes. En utilisant des insights basés sur les données, les agriculteurs peuvent optimiser l'utilisation des ressources, y compris l'eau et les engrais. Cela augmente non seulement l'efficacité des opérations agricoles, mais minimise également l'impact environnemental, contribuant à la durabilité globale de

l'agriculture dans le contexte d'un climat en mutation. L'agroforesterie est une autre approche climato-intelligente qui gagne en importance. L'intégration d'arbres dans les paysages agricoles offre de multiples avantages, notamment la séquestration du carbone, l'amélioration de la santé du sol et le renforcement de la biodiversité. Les pratiques agroforestières contribuent à l'atténuation du changement climatique tout en fournissant simultanément des sources de revenus supplémentaires aux agriculteurs grâce à la production de bois, de fruits ou de noix.

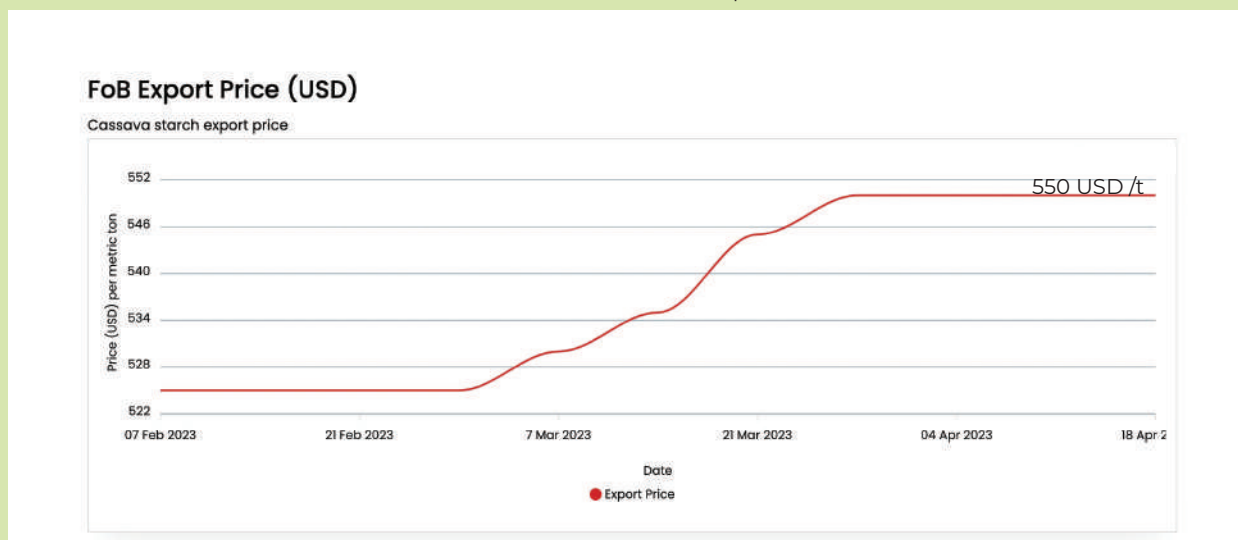
De plus, les pratiques durables de gestion de l'eau sont essentielles à l'agriculture climato-intelligente. Cela implique des méthodes efficaces d'irrigation, la collecte des eaux de pluie et le recyclage de l'eau, garantissant que l'agriculture reste résiliente face à la pénurie d'eau ou aux modèles de précipitations erratiques.

En conclusion, les approches climato-intelligentes en agriculture sont essentielles pour renforcer la résilience face aux impacts du changement climatique. En adoptant des pratiques telles que la culture de cultures résilientes, l'utilisation de technologies d'agriculture de précision, l'intégration de l'agroforesterie et la mise en œuvre d'une gestion durable de l'eau, les agriculteurs peuvent naviguer à travers les défis posés par un climat changeant tout en contribuant à la durabilité à long terme de l'agriculture.

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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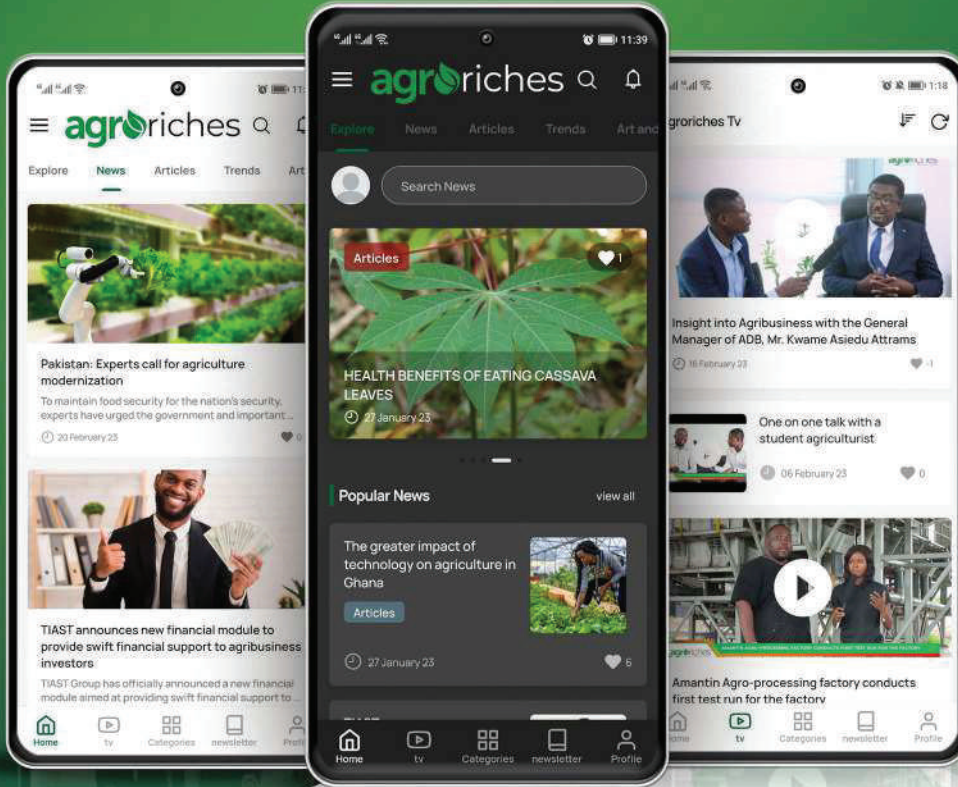
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