KIWANJA.NET
MINDFUL SOCIAL CHANGE

MOBILE DATABASE · ARTICLE

GHANA AGRICULTURE

Author / organisation	AllAfrica.com
Year recorded	2007
Region	Africa · Ghana
Category	Agriculture
Original source	allafrica.com
Archive page	kiwanja.net/mobile-database/ghana-agriculture/

This document is part of the kiwanja.net Mobile Database, an archive of more than 700 articles, reports and projects on mobile technology for development, collected between 2003 and 2010. It is reproduced here for reference; the original author's rights are retained.

Explore more. Browse the full archive at kiwanja.net/mobile-database.
Looking for support with your own social change work? See kiwanja.net/work-with-me.
Ken Banks offers coaching, mentoring and strategy support.

Mission Trip Rates
Non Profit Groups Only Air Fares for Missionary Groups
MissionTripAirFare.com

Kenya Tanzania Safari
Top African operator. Save direct. Web video tour. Luxury 6 days $1117
www.GraduateTours.com

Lagos Flights from $683
Africa Flights - Unbeatable Fares Book Now and Save Big!
www.BT-STORE.com

Fly South African Airways
Official Site: See specials and book

CTA to Facilitate Agro-Information Dissemination to Farmers

Ghanaian Chronicle (Accra)
NEWS
15 May 2007
Posted to the web 15 May 2007

By Emmanuel Kubi

THE DIRECTOR of The Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA), Dr. Hansjorg Neun has stressed the need to collaborate with government institutions, Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Farmer Group Organizations (FGO) in order to reach the local farmers with information on new strategies in agricultural production.

Such a co-operation, he noted would also create a market to spread information to farmers in the rural areas of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of States in order to help improve their livelihood.

He made this observation when he separately called on the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Ernest K. Debrah and the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. Kwadwo Baah Wiredu in Accra.

He was in the country to participate in the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA), which took place in Accra last week.

Dr. Neun said it has become necessary under the 1983 Lome Convention to keep farmers at the grassroot levels informed about new agricultural technologies, improvement in some varieties, and the shift away from over dependence on rain-fed farming, thus gradually discouraging subsistence farming and also providing them with information on how they could find markets for their produce without cost in the ACP countries.

"CTA is doing these by taking up the sponsorship of information dissemination projects by local FGOs, hence the need for good partnership with local organizations" in Ghana like MOFA's Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services for promoting priority information themes and audiovisuals and working with Ghana National Association of Farmers and Fishermen (GNAFF) for the strengthening of information communication management base among others.

"These can easily be done through community-based Radio and Television programmes, SMS text messaging of produce prices, good capacity building and distribution of hand-outs among others." He said it would help enlighten grassroots farmers to better their lives and ensure food security which would be in conformity with CTA's

new strategic plans.

He observed that the main constraint was the lack of access to Internet facilities in some communities advising that while CTA is making efforts to overcome this issue, facilitators under the local organizations should be making good use of the little assistance provided to the benefit of the farmers.

He attested to the fact that CTA has done creditably well in the past years and will continue to support the dissemination processes in the ACP countries.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Debrah welcomed the ideas saying mechanizing agriculture in the country was necessary and that 57% of the population, who have found themselves in agriculture and had access to information, would benefit from improving on production and ensuring food security.

He said overdependence on rain-fed farming should be a thing of the past if farmers could access information on new technologies, where results of researches would be made available.

He noted that rice consumption in the country was about 500,000 metric tones a year and that most of what is imported could be equally produced in Ghana.

He also bemoaned the importation of fish, which is on the increase, by the country.

He therefore called for collaborations in the various areas and capacities towards the improvement of agriculture for local folks and all who may like to farm, to help meet the Millennium Challenge Goals by feeding ourselves with surplus to export.

Dr. Nuen was in Ghana with one of the CTA's Senior Programme Coordinators, Dr. Ibrahim Tiemogo.

Copyright © 2007 Ghanaian Chronicle. All rights reserved. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com).