



IITA

Youth Agripreneurs

Agriculture is the future

Durante Fish Industries and IITA Youth Agripreneurs to foster deeper collaboration



Leadership and management team of Durante Fish Industry, ILRI, IITA and other guests.

Durante Fish Industries Ltd, one of the major players in the fish industry in West Africa, plans to strengthen ties with the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA), as the fish firm sees a lot of prospects in the young "agripreneur" program. This follows a visit on Wednesday, 22 October, by the leadership and management of the Durante Fish Industries Ltd. and other distinguished guests to IITA headquarters.

IITA has been linked with Durante Industries and the fish firm was responsible for the training of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA). That training led to the formation of the group's fishery unit. The group is now exploring the possibility of furthering its

partnership with the aquaculture giant.

The visiting team toured some of the institute's facilities starting with the IYA fish ponds. They expressed delight on the progress made by the Agripreneurs in fisheries over the past couple of months. "If we have achieved this much in such a short time, then we are prepared to continue and expand this relationship," said Chief Ogie Alakija, Chairman of Durante Fish Industries Ltd.

The team made some commitments in principle to the IITA youth group that include linkage with Durante Fish Industries Limited in the marketing of the fish produced by the youth group. Durante will also be taking delivery of raw materials currently being produced by IYA

including soybean, quality protein maize and probably cassava peels and leaves for the production of its fish feed. The fish firm also intends to continue mentoring and training the Agripreneurs. Durante will also facilitate IYA's visit to Skretting Nigeria fish feed plant, thereby advancing the partnership. The firm will support the youths by training them in financial management and marketing.

Durante's commitment to support the IITA Youth Agripreneurs comes after Nigeria's Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina; and the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Dr. Kanayo Nwanze made similar pledge to support the youngsters.



Dr Adeshina, Minister of Agriculture, with IITA Youth Agripreneurs.



IFAD President, Dr Kanayo Nwanze at the IYA Hatchery.



Chief Ogie Alakija giving his remarks

"If Nigeria doesn't wake up we would descend into the depths of no employment. It is a disgrace that a graduate will take up to 5 years before they get a job, it is a big disgrace and shouldn't happen but that is what is happening today. But you are all very lucky to be given this chance to get a job and to work in agriculture. I would like to say, "I wish you all luck and will support you."—Chief Alakija.



Mr Tope giving his remarks during the visit

"I am happy to be here today on this visitation. I can tell you that for some reason, the Youth Programme has really 'embarrassed me'. You set up that place in March and here in October, we are talking of harvesting, and you are already extending from four ponds to 11. This shows your diligence and I say "congratulations."

"I will only employ you that whatever you do, try and develop a very good passion for it. Whatever you are being told, try and stick to it, make more research and I can assure you that we will support you in fisheries. I can't support you in maize or cassava but in fish I can guarantee you that. In the next few weeks you will see that. Thank you." — Mr Tope.

Photo speaks:



L-R: IITA DG, Nteranya Sanginga; Mr Tope; Chief Ogie Alakija; and Prince Oseni Segun during a discussion session.



Chief Ogie Alakija (2nd left) taking a tour of the IITA Youth Agripreneurs' fish ponds.



Chief Ogie Alakija feeding the fish at the IITA Youth Agripreneur's pond.



DG IITA, Dr Nteranya Sanginga (far right) talks about the Business Incubation Platform (BIP) of IITA.



Chief Ogie Alakija (2nd from right) with other management staff taking IITA Youth Agripreneurs' soy milk during the visit to maize field.



IITA Youth Agripreneurs honour Mrs Seyi Ige for her technical support.