



FUTA NEWS

FUWAPE ADVISES STUDENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Fuwape of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), has encouraged students of the Institution to embrace agriculture as a profession or vocation and become future agripreneurs. He stated this while officially flagging off massive planting of crops and animal rearing for students in their practical session of General Agriculture Practical, CSP 210. Professor Fuwape accompanied by the Dean, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT), Professor Taiwo Amos and Farm Manager, Mr. Joseph Adedayo and other staff of the Teaching and Research Farm expressed the importance of farming to human survival. They said Nigeria is blessed with fertile land and adequate rainfall suitable for planting all year round. In view of this they encouraged students who are willing to embrace the back-to-land policy of the government by engaging in substantive or full farming. The exercise is to train students on the art of farming.

While on a tour of the farm facilities, the Farm Manager, Mr. Adedayo described the Green House as a method of Intensive cultivation that gives maximum productivity for vegetable. Mr. Adedayo said the Green House serves against pest attack and some diseases that will ordinarily plague the crops on normal farm land. He said the soils within the Green House are sterilized manure and humus soil expected to yield maximum output. The Manager added that as small as the Green House is compared to hectares of land the yields will be more than what will be harvested on several hectares of land. Also speaking the Dean (SAAT), Professor Amos said the idea of engaging the students in this exercise is to make them self-reliant and future agripreneurs. The Professor said that the specie of the Tomato planted in the green house

is rare saying the vegetable will do better as they are not exposed to the vagaries of harsh weather conditions. At the Fish pond, the Field Consultant, Mr. Mike Ojuola described the project as a profitable one, saying it will not only serve as a fish farming depot but also an irrigation scheme to the nearby farm land around it. Mr. Ojuola said the aim is to supply fish and replicate the idea in the neighbouring villages. He said by the time the fish farm takes off, a minimum of ten tones will be harvested on a daily basis.

However the Field Consultant said funding is a major bottleneck they are experiencing. Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Fuwape commended the entire staff of SAAT and the Teaching and Research Farm in their effort at ensuring that the back-to-land policy of the Federal government is sustained in FUTA. He also said that efforts will be fast tracked at ensuring that all required for the Farm and Fish pond to produce at optimum are provided as long as the normal due process is followed. The training saw enthusiastic students planting seeds and caring for the animals. It is truly a reflection that some of them may eventually become agripreneurs to help in food production to banish hunger and reduce poverty in the land.