



FUTA NEWS

GOVERNMENT POLICY SHOULD ENCOURAGE AGRICULTURE – DARAMOLA

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Akure has called on governments at all levels to put in place policies that will encourage the populace especially the youth into practicing agriculture. He stated this while on an inspection of the students of the University at their practical farming recently on the Teaching and research Farm of the Institution.

Daramola said the present crop of farmers the nation rely on for farming is ageing and they need those who will eventually succeed them. He said in view of this succession, the youth need to be adequately equipped mentally and physically to be able to take over successfully. He said the idea of teaching students practical farming is to teach agriculture as a business so that people will not see it as just hoe and cutlass business, but for them to be educated farmers who will use machines and equipment to cultivate larger expanse of land.

Daramola also said the experience the students acquire from the institution will also justify FUTA as a Centre of excellence in Food Security because some of them will eventually graduate to become agripreneurs in the future who will live to remember their Alma Mata.

He commended the students' enthusiasm in learning, saying the philosophy of teaching Crop, Soil and Pest (CSP) 210 is being actualized. He said "With what I saw today, I am satisfied with what the students have demonstrated practically today. Some of them are having this experience for the first time and I can see the readiness and zeal to learn from them. I believe it's an experience worth having because some of them need it for the future. "He also commended the effort of the Farm Manager, Mr. Adedayo Olajide and his team for their labour over the students in giving them practical exposure to farming.

In his remark, Dean, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, (SAAT) Professor Shadrach Akindele said the idea behind the programme is to inculcate into students the dignity of labour and build them for the future. He said it also exposes them to how food crops are grown and make them entrepreneurs in agriculture. Akindele said through this programme, the University is impacting its immediate environment positively by extending new farming skills and techniques into their operations. He said "We have in the

recent years impacted communities. At the moment we have farmers that we are working with. Some are from Ipinsa, Ero, Alade-Idanre and a few others. From time to time we bring them here to see best practices in farming and we encourage them to go back to their farms to do likewise. We also visit them to monitor their performances so that they can compare our practices with theirs.”

He further advocated adequate irrigation on the farms to improve yields because at the moment, there is heavy dependence on rainfall which may not be enough as expected.

Lending his voice the Farm Manger, Mr. Adedayo Olajide said the students are doing their best. According to him, the aim of the programme is to revolutionize agriculture and make it take its pioneer position in feeding the masses and generating revenue for the nation. He lamented the over-dependence of the Nigerian economy on oil, saying this portend great danger for the nation.

In a chat some of the students expressed their delight in the exposure to farming. Folarin Oladele Gabriel of the Department of Building Technology said, “The knowledge that I will acquire here will help me in the future because agriculture is a life line for human survival. I believe there is a future in agriculture because it can earn one big income and reduce hunger in the land.”