



FUTA News

TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE – FUTA VC, AKURE REGENT TASK AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

The Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, FUTA Professor Adebisi Daramola and the Regent of Akure Kingdom, Her Royal Majesty, Princess (Dr) Adetutu Adesida have appealed to agricultural economists to work with other professionals to tackle the devastating effect of Climate Change in the country. They spoke at the 14th Annual National Conference of the Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists (NAAE) held at the institution's Centre for Continual Education (CCE) Hilltop Auditorium. The theme of the Conference is Climate Change, Agriculture & Food Security." Daramola appealed to his professional colleagues in the Agricultural Economics discipline to rise up to the challenge of contributing more to national development by rising up to their responsibilities. He made similar call to all professional bodies in the country for the development of the nation and alienation of poverty.

Professor Daramola made this appeal Daramola, a fellow of the Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists (fnaae) said it is when professional bodies strategically situate themselves and key into the transformation agenda in their respective areas that the country can overcome her challenges. He said "Our country is currently faced by enormous challenges bothering on poverty, joblessness, insecurity hunger etc. These challenges have been made worse with Climate Change. We also know that Nigeria is abundantly blessed with natural resources. The diversity of our Climate and fertility of our soils give us agriculture as a veritable Profession with capacity for high potentials of wealth and job creation. We therefore need to improve on our advisory roles to government in our respective individual and collective capacities. As Agricultural economists, we need to provide solutions and answers to issues like flooding, drought, rising humidity, increase temperature so as to eradicate or reduce hunger and poverty in the land."

He further called for more interdisciplinary research from various bodies to tackle Climate Change which will eventually improve agriculture and guarantee food security.

Speaking further, Professor Daramola said a forum like this offers the opportunity of assessing how professional NAAE has been with a view to ensure continue impactful contributions of the body to the country. "Considering the current situation with respect to national development, it is high time all professional bodies and associations reviewed their professional conduct and services as well as the quality of their contributions to societal development. For us as a body of scholar and Agricultural Economists, we need to review what we teach (curriculum) and how we teach (methodology) and make resolutions to improve on both. Our mentoring roles to younger generation of Agricultural Economists matter immensely at this time so as to inculcate the right professional attitude into them. "He also promised to pursue the communiqué tagged 'Akure Declaration' with the Federal Government through the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina.

In her remark, the Regent of Akure, Princess Adesida urged the Federal Government to tackle Climate Change through proper funding of the Agriculture sector. TO NAAE she said" The theme of your Conference is apt and timely, given the amount of disaster the country has witnessed over the years because of Climate Change. I urge you not to relent in playing your laudable roles as agriculturist to tackle Climate Change to reduce poverty and banish hunger in our country". Addressing his colleagues, the National President of Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists (NAAE), Professor Peter Bola Okuneye said Nigeria is groaning under the hardship of the consequences of Climate Change which has resulted into high food importation causing high worrisome and unacceptable prices of food and agricultural items. In view of this the NAAE is ready to champion the cause of alleviating the sufferings of the Nigerian populace by organizing the Conference which will produce blue print for solution to the challenge of hunger and poverty. "We are ready as a body of Agricultural/Resource Economists to champion the coursed of liberating Nigeria from the scourge of Climate Change" he said.

The Conference had in attendance top government functionaries from Ondo, Ekiti, and Osun States and large number of Agricultural Economists from across the nations.