



FUTA NEWS

CAREER EXCELLENCE NOT GENDER BASED

There is need for students to strive for excellence in any given career choice irrespective of their gender. This was the fulcrum of opinion at the FUTA 2016 Role Modeling and Career Talk programme organized for the students of FUTA Staff Secondary School by the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Federal University of Technology, Akure in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology held at the T. I. Francis Auditorium of the University.

Speaking on the theme “Fisheries and Aquaculture Practices in Nigeria: Not gender preconception”. Director, Centre for Gender Issues in Science and Technology (CEGIST), FUTA, Professor (Mrs.) Tolulope Olaleye said, fish production should not be gender biased and that women should be educated and enlightened on the new technologies available in aquaculture. She further noted that women who have hitherto been basically involved in post-harvest production should be exposed to the gains of resource management in the fishing sector.

Speaking in the same vein, Head of Department, Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology, Professor Timothy Adebayo represented by Dr. (Mrs.) Mosunmola Olufayo said Nigeria is the largest fish consumer in Africa and the largest producer in West Africa with over 1.5million tons consumed annually. According to him fish is an important source of food income, employment and recreation for people around the world and a very important source of protein. He said both men and women have a major role to play in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture stressing the need for the female gender to be involved in the non-traditional sectors of aquaculture, fishery, research and education as opposed to the gender biased traditional labour divisions of

postharvest production and processing activities. The duo of Olaleye and Adebayo dwelt extensively on the importance of the role of women in fisheries and aquaculture especially due to the current trend in the inclusion and progress of the female gender in national development globally. Various Dons in the Department also took turns to enlighten students on the potentials embedded in fisheries which include fish engineering genetics and the aesthetic value of fish. The students were admonished to see fish farming as a viable source of income and capable of developing the women folk which should not be in any way gender biased or segregated.

Earlier, in his opening address, Chairman of the occasion and Director, Academic Planning, who is also the Chair of the Secondary School Board, Professor Oyedapo Fagbenro said opportunities abound for excellence and personal enhancement in any given career, diligence and hard work are the basic ingredients required to achieve the desired success.

Professor Fagbenro said parents tend to undermine career choices that are not popular and challenged students to expose themselves to a wide range of career prospects and endeavor to climb to the top. In her good will message Professor Stella Williams, Chairperson, Board of (CEGIST), FUTA admonished the students to develop helpful study habits and engage in competitions so as to equip themselves physically and mentally for the challenge entailed in the academic world. The event was attended by students of FUTA Staff Secondary School with active participation by the 500 level students and staff of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology.