



FUTA NEWS

TREE PLANTING CAN MITIGATE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Massive afforestation and reforestation, educating the public on forest values, assessing forest resources, ensuring stakeholders' participation in forest management and encouraging good cultural practices have been highlighted as key factors to climate change mitigation. The Executive Director of the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) Dr. Olatunde Adepoju made this assertion during the Northern Africa Regional Meeting (NARM) hosted by the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), Federal University of Technology, Akure.

Speaking on the theme: The Role of Tropical Rainforest in Livelihood Improvement and Climate Change Mitigation the Executive Director who was represented by Dr. (Mrs.) Morenike Ojo, Provost, Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan said Tropical rainforests are sources of renewable natural resources which constitute the planet's thickest habitats and one of the earth's most precious natural resources. He stated that the dense tropical rainforests provide essential environmental, economic, socio cultural, beauty and landscape services which include biodiversity conservation, cash income generation, sources of food security and nutrition.

Dr. Adepoju explained that climate change is being experienced due to a gross decline in the volume and composition of biodiversity flora and fauna as well as their habitats, adding that various human activities such as deforestation, over exploitation, oil exploration, over grazing, industrial pollution and poor waste management practices are some of the major contributions to the environment challenges that have been traced to climate change. The Executive Director said that the sustainable use of forests

will prevent global warming this is because growing forests capture and store carbon to replace carbon that has been removed and released through burning.

He also stated that the principle of sustainable management must be sincerely applied to the remaining areas of tropical rain forest in order to ameliorate the unhealthy and life threatening effect of global climate change and checkmate environmental adversities.

Speaking at the event, Founder, Evergreen Tree Plantation and President, Forest and Forest Products Society of Nigeria, Chief Bisi Rodipe said deforestation has been a major problem in Nigeria for the past fifty years and that various methods deployed to solve the problem have failed because the present forest preserves are the ones planted by the colonial masters and new reserves have not been planted to replenish the old ones.

Rodipe lamented the unwillingness of forestry graduates to practice forestry which has made them neglect their profession to pursue other interests. He enjoined the students to practice their profession by embarking on extensive tree planting to tackle the effects of climate change. Speaking earlier the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Professor Tolulope Akinbogun urged the students to use their training to combat the negative effects of climate change through effective use of good forest practices. He said the management has underscored the importance of protecting the environment by ensuring that the University maintains a green, well-kept landscape. He advised the students to see their course as a passion as forestry is crucial to preserving the natural resources of the nation. Also, the Dean, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT), Professor Shadrach

Akindele educated the students on the prospect in International Forestry and encouraged them to apply themselves conscientiously to the training given to them.

Dignitaries that graced the occasion include, Professor of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University (FAMU), Professor Onokpise Oghene kome, Head of Department, Forestry and Wood Technology, Professor Olufemi Babatola, Staff Adviser, Dr. (Mrs,) Oyerinde Olubukola and Participants from University of Natural Resources, Ghana, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Federal College of Forestry Ibadan, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti and Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba.