



COCOBOD INTRODUCES MOTORISED SPRAYERS AND PRUNERS TO COCOA FARMERS



Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), as part its strategy to make cocoa farming less laborious, has out-dooed 100,000 dual -purposed motorised pruners and slashers to be used by cocoa farmers across the country.

The implements, which were launched at a colorful ceremony at Nkawie in the Atwima -Nwabiagya South Municipality of the Ashanti Region, will be used to weed and prune cocoa farms.

Dr. Nurah Gyiele, Minister of State at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, delivering a keynote address on behalf of the Sector Minister said there was a massive transformation in the cocoa sector, adding that this was very important to the growth and development of the Ghanaian economy.

He was optimistic that the numerous Productivity Enhancement Programmes (PEPs) being implemented by Government would not only help to increase yield per hectare but more importantly, improve the incomes of cocoa farmers and ensure the sustainability of the cocoa business.

Hon Joseph Boahen Aidoo, Chief Executive of COCOBOD, reiterated Government's commitment to reducing the drudgery and discomfort associated with cocoa farming.

Hon Aidoo said the introduction of modern practices and technologies to assist farmers in their farms was one sure way to move the cocoa sector forward and increase yields.

He disclosed that COCOBOD had procured more than 100,000 motorized slashers and pruners for distribution to farmer cooperatives adding that, the implement comes to complement the mass pruning exercise which had been introduced as a Productivity Enhancement Programme for cocoa farmers in the country.

'The machines have multipurpose functions – for weeding and pruning, are

more efficient for weed control and require less energy input from the farmer as compared to the use of machetes and other farm implements', he noted.

Hon Aidoo said using the motorised implements would help eradicate the use of weedicides which usually increase the chemical residue levels in the cocoa beans.

Dignitaries, chief farmers and the media personnel who attended the event witnessed a demonstration of how the machines operate in a nearby cocoa farm.



COCOBOD LADIES CLUB SWORN IN NEW EXECUTIVES

New Executives of the COCOBOD Ladies Club have been sworn in at a colourful ceremony at Cocoa House in Accra with a charge to uphold the core values of the Club. Present at the ceremony were some Management members and Leadership of Ladies Clubs of Division and Subsidiaries of COCOBOD.



In her farewell statement, the outgoing President of the Club, Mrs. Sabina Wereko, was grateful to all members for their support and contributions towards the success of every policy and programme implemented during her tenure.

Mrs. Wereko added that such support should be extended to the newly elected executives to enable them move the activities of the club to greater heights.

"I am hopeful that, just as you have backed me and my team, you will give same support to the new executives and work hand in hand with them to achieve set goals," she added.

The Director of Human Resource and Solicitor Secretary, Mr. Francis Akwasi Opoku, who administered the oath of office, emphasized the need for team work among the executives and advised them to stay focus in order to take strategic

decisions for the collective interest of all members. He implored them to seek for advice where necessary to move the Club forward.

"Leadership comes with sacrifice and therefore my doors are always opened for suggestions, discussions and advice on the implementation of decisions to support the ladies", he said.

The new President, Ms. Sethlina Opoku-Amankwah on behalf of her

colleagues, extended appreciation to members of the Club for the confidence reposed in them and pledged to work assiduously to promote the interest of ladies in COCOBOD. She, however called for unity of purpose among the executives to collectively address problems facing the Club.

Ms. Sethlina Opoku-Amankwah further noted the need for ladies to build their capacities through further studies to make them

effective in their respective Divisions/ Subsidiaries. She called on all to support the celebration of the 2020 National Chocolate Day. "Chocolate day is ahead of us and it a Red Day, let us all support the celebration", she appealed.

Meanwhile, the new Executives include Mrs. Sethlina Opoku-Amankwah President, Janet Abena Acquah 1st Vice and Ms. Pearl M. Gawu 2nd Vice President.

NEWMONT PARTNERS COCOBOD TO RECONSTRUCT NKAWKAW-ABIREM ROAD

Newmont Golden Ridge Limited, a Mining Company in Ghana has partnered Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) to reconstruct the Nkawkaw-Abirem Road in the Eastern Region to support COCOBOD's efforts at rehabilitating major roads linking cocoa communities in the country.



At a brief Ceremony at Cocoa House, Accra to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two Institutions, the Chief Executive of COCOBOD, Hon Joseph Boahen Aidoo emphasized that the Mining Company owes communities they operate a great of infrastructural support and COCOBOD is delighted to partner Newmont to fix the Nkawkaw-Abirem Road.

'When constructed, the myriad of challenges associated with the carting of farm produce and movement of persons will be solved and life would be more meaningful for inhabitants living along the catchment area', he expressed adding "Your presence here is significant since we have a common goal – and that is to assist our people".

Hon Aidoo commended the company for voluntarily coming on board to partner COCOBOD to reconstruct the road and used the opportunity to call on other companies to support the development of communities they operate in.

He further indicated that, the Ministry of Roads and Highways will provide technical support for the project while COCOBOD and Newmont will jointly fund the project.

The Chief Executive again revealed that COCOBOD, through its Civil Works and Procurement Departments will ensure due diligence to ensure value for money.

Mr. Francis Hardy, the Regional Vice President of Newmont Golden Ridge Limited on his part lauded the Mining Company for playing significant roles in the economic growth of the country.

"We thought of what we can do to support the Country's Development and the Finance Ministry aided us in taking a good decision; we, therefore, look forward to a successful implementation of the project", he said.

In attendance were officials from both COCOBOD and Newmont.



‘LET’S ADD VALUE TO OUR RAW MATERIALS’ - PRESIDENT URGES

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has stressed the need for industries in Ghana to add value to our raw materials if Ghana is to achieve the Ghana beyond Aid Agenda.



President Akufo-Addo made this statement when he officially opened the 71st Annual New Year School and Conference at the Great Hall of the University of Ghana, Legon, Accra. The event was held under the theme, “Attaining Ghana Beyond Aid : Prospects and Challenges.”

The President mentioned that Ghana, at Independence some 63 years ago, had same per capita income as countries like Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea but regretted the country still has high import dependency ratio.

‘Over the years, Ghana’s dependency on the export of such commodities has led to an under achievement of the country’s economic development compared to her peers

since independence’, he noted.

President Akufo-Addo further mentioned that although Ghana is rich in natural resources, mismanagement, and high fiscal deficit have invariably made the country a recipient of foreign direct investment in West Africa.

According to him, to achieve the Ghana Beyond Aid Agenda, Ghana as a country must harness its natural resources efficiently for rapid economic and social transformation and break away from the mindset of dependency.

On value creation, the President urged companies in the country to add value to raw materials to minimize the exports of key

commodities such as cocoa, gold, bauxite, manganese and oil in their raw forms.

He further mentioned that while the foreign chocolate market is worth more than 100 billion US Dollars, cocoa farmers who go through the drudgery of planting and harvesting the cash crop were at the detriment of receiving very low incomes.

‘Our cocoa farmers in Africa receive less than 10 percent of its value from a bar of chocolate’, he expressed Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo was optimistic strides had been made in the recent cooperation between Ghana and Cote D’Ivoire as the introduction of the new pricing mechanism - Living Income Differential (LID) of US\$400.00 per

tonne of cocoa had been embraced by major trading partners.

‘This move, has been applauded by major chocolate manufacturers such as Cadbury’s Mondelez, Mars and The Hershey Company whose main interest is in the sustainable production of cocoa in Africa’, he hinted.

On financing Ghana’s cocoa industry, the President stated that, Ghana Cocoa Board had secured \$600 loan facility from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to finance key aspects of the Productivity Enhancement Programmes (PEPs) to increase yield.

According to him, part of the loan

would be used to support local processing of raw cocoa beans to increase local processing of the commodity to 60 percent.

Other key speakers at the event included Dr. Ishmael Yamson whose Keynote Address emphasized the need for Ghana to become less aid dependent and debt-free.

The Annual New Year School and Conference since its inception in 1949 has been a platform which brings together key players in Ghana’s economic drive to discuss and contribute to pressing issues concerning nation-building with some proposals being adopted as part of the national agenda.