

REPORT ON THE DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE ENGAGEMENT ON THE 36TH DISTRICT FARMER’S DAY CELEBRATION HELD AT ANYAKPOR ON FRIDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2020.

INTRODUCTION

The official National Farmers’ Day is a statutory public holiday held on the first Friday of December. 2020 Farmer’s Day was held on the first Friday of November because of the election year. The theme for the celebration was, “Agribusiness Development under Covid-19 – opportunity and challenges

The District Chief Executive (DCE) as the Chief representative of the Central Government, and in performance of her executive functions used the opportunity to address the people of Ada East on the various Agriculture tailored flagship programmes of the Government and informed citizenry on the progress made by the District Assembly in implementing same.

PARTICIPANTS

The celebration was graced by Heads of Agencies, Members of Ada Traditional Authority, Hon. Members and Heads of Departments of the Assembly, Heads of Educational Institutions in the District, Members of the Ada East District Farmers and Fisheries Association, Residents of Anyakpor and the surrounding Coastal Communities, Representatives of NGOs and CBOs, 2020 Farmer’s Day award winners and the Media.

DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The District Chief Executive of the Ada East District Assembly, Hon. Sarah Dugbakie Pobee in her key note address to the people of Ada East, thanked the Almighty God for His goodness upon the people and land of Ada.

She expressed her profound appreciation to the farmers and fisherfolks across the district, for the resilient nature. The Hon. DCE added that Agriculture remains one of the age long bedrocks of the Ghanaian Economy and thus the 36th District Famer’s Day celebration was worth observing by all and sundry.

The Hon. DCE also thanked the Traditional Authorities and Custodians of Lands, for releasing vast acres of land towards farming activities in the district.

Impact of COVID - 19 on Farmers

The Hon. DCE said, this year’s Farmer’s Day celebration has taken on even more significance in view of the ravages caused by the novel COVID-19 pandemic, which has disrupted all aspects of national life.

She acknowledged the fact that most farmers have had to go through a period of tough changes as buyers have closed their windows and the livelihood of farmers were at stake.

Government Flagship Programmes

The Hon. DCE indicated that the district has received strong support from the government over the last three years and ten months. She added that under the leadership of H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo and collaborative efforts of the agriculture minister, Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, the following agriculture tailored government flagship programmes were implemented in the district.

- Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ)

Planting for Food and Jobs is a flagship agricultural campaign of the Government, with five implementing modules. The district has registered total of 3723 farmers under PFJ.

The implemented Modules under the five modules of PFJ are as follows:

1. Rearing for food and jobs (RFJ)

Under this programme, list of 30 selected livestock farmers have been submitted to Accra to receive improved pigs and poultry breeds.

2. Agricultural Mechanisation Services (AMSECs)

Under the mechanisation for food and jobs module, Government has supplied the district with instruments to facilitate harvesting and threshing of cereals.

The Assembly has also facilitated the expansion of irrigation facilities at Angorsikope from serving capacity of 135 to 350 hectares.

3. Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD)

The programme aims to promote the export of tree crops including cashew, coffee, coconut, oil palm, mango, rubber and sheanut to increase export earnings. The district has registered 37 farmers to receive 4150 mango seedlings and 540 coconut seedlings.

- Seed and fertilizer subsidy programme

Under this programme, 8715 farmers were registered in the district as beneficiaries of 7590 bags of fertilizers (5,240 NPK and 2350 Urea), 211,400 cans of tomatoes seed, 19 sachets of chili pepper seeds, 2400kg of rice seeds and 2,100kg of maize seeds were received and distributed to farmers.

- Fisheries and Aquaculture development

Under the Aquaculture for foods and jobs flagship initiative, the department has trained 21 youths in modern methods of aquaculture production.

- Fall Army Worm (FAW) Control

To maintain vigilance for sustainable management of FAW, the Assembly procured and distributed 248 litres of Adepa, 48 litres of Ema Star, 40 litres of Warrior Supper and 1600 sachets of Agoos insecticides to 1,587 farmers.

She mentioned that with the chemical support and technical expertise of officers, the FAW situation in the district was brought under control and efforts are being made to prevent further occurrence.

In conclusion, the Hon. DCE entreated all farmers within the irrigation catchment area to take advantage of the interventions and engage in all year farming. She also admonished farmers involved in negative agricultural practices such to desist from such, as it endangers the lives of consumers.

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE HON. ASSEMBLY MEMBER

The Hon. Assembly Member of Anyakpor electoral area in his closing remarks commended the DCE and other top officials of the Assembly for supporting the 36th Farmers Day celebration and above all choosing to celebrate on the grounds of Anyakpor.

He urged the all and sundry to take advantage of the various government flagship programmes being implemented by District Assembly. He also congratulated all award winners and expressed great optimism for Farmers within the District winning awards on the National Level.



Figure 1 HON. DCE delivering her Speech at the 36th Farmer's Day celebration



Figure 2 HON. DCE Presenting Items to award winners

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