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NEWSLETTER

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Spotlight on Innovation Leadership



Harnessing Nigeria's Nutrient-Rich Crops to End Malnutrition –Harvestplus



The Unseen Cost of Artificial Intelligence

HARNESSING NIGERIA'S NUTRIENT-RICH CROPS TO END MALNUTRITION: INSIGHTS FROM HARVESTPLUS COUNTRYMANAGER



Nigeria stands at a defining moment in its fight against malnutrition, and the key may lie in its own farmlands. According to Dr. Yusuf Dollah Fu'ad, Country Manager of HarvestPlus Nigeria, the nation already possesses the natural and agricultural resources needed to significantly reduce malnutrition rates, provided there is a unified, food-based approach.

Speaking at the 11th Nutritious Food Fair, which coincided with World Food Day, Dr. Fu'ad reaffirmed that Nigeria's agricultural landscape is blessed with a wide range of biofortified crops, including Vitamin A maize, iron and zinc-enriched millet, cowpea, soybean, and rice. These nutrient-rich crops, he explained, form the foundation of a practical and sustainable solution to combat hidden hunger.

Citing data from the National Food Consumption and Micronutrient Survey, Dr. Fu'ad emphasized that most rural households depend primarily on what they produce on their farms for daily nutrition. "Focusing solely on packaged or processed foods will leave out a large segment of Nigerians," he noted. "Our solution must begin with the farmer, ensuring they have access to nutrient-enriched seeds that they can cultivate, consume, and sell."

This, he said, is not only cost-effective but also one of the most sustainable strategies to improve nutrition outcomes nationwide.

DONORS URGED TO SCALE CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS' RESILIENCE IN KADUNA STATE



Dr. Samson Afolabi, the Managing Director of Premier Tropicana Nigeria Limited, has called on agricultural development agencies and donor organizations to expand their investment in climate-smart adaptation initiatives that empower smallholder farmers to build resilience, increase productivity, and strengthen food security in Nigeria.

Speaking with African Media & Communications Consulting (AMCC) during an exclusive interview at a project site in Kaduna State, Dr. Afolabi highlighted the remarkable progress recorded under the initiative, "Climate Smart Adaptation for Building Smallholder Farmers' Resilience to Increase Productivity, Improve Income and Food Security in Kaduna State."

The project, supported by AGRA, has equipped smallholder farmers across several communities with digital tools, agronomic training, and innovative learning materials that promote sustainable agricultural practices and improve yields.

"We trained community-based advisors (CBAs) who now serve as the bridge between technology and the farmer," Dr. Afolabi explained. "These advisors were provided with digital devices preloaded with instructional videos and agronomic guides to help farmers understand and adopt improved practices with ease."

SPOTLIGHT ON INNOVATION LEADERSHIP: MAGALIE ANDERSON DRIVING AFRICA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AT THE AFRICAN UNION

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — The African Union Commission (AUC) is taking bold strides toward building an innovation-driven continent, with leaders like Magalie Anderson, Director of Management Information Systems (MIS), at the forefront of this transformation.

A passionate advocate for youth empowerment, gender inclusion, and digital innovation, Magalie Anderson has been instrumental in repositioning the African Union as a hub for technology-driven development. Through her leadership, the AU's Management Information Systems Directorate has strengthened digital infrastructure, advanced data management systems, and fostered technology adoption across the Union's operations, all geared toward achieving Agenda 2063, Africa's blueprint for sustainable growth and prosperity.



Her most recent contribution was during the three-day AU Innovation and Youth Leadership Week held at the Union's headquarters in Addis Ababa. The event, themed "Repositioning the African Union for Youth-Centered Innovation Leadership," brought together top AU officials, including H.E. Amb. Selma Malika Haddadi (Deputy Chairperson), Prudence Ngwenya, Leslie Richer, and Mahlet Teshome Kebede, to reaffirm the critical role of youth-led innovation in driving Africa's development agenda.

Under Magalie's guidance, the AU has launched transformative initiatives such as the AU Go Gal program, which empowers young women innovators to lead solutions in science, technology, and entrepreneurship, and the African Union Digital and Innovation Fellowship, which nurtures talented young Africans to co-create and implement digital solutions across AU departments and Member States.

Speaking at the event, Magalie emphasized that "Africa's future lies in our ability to innovate for ourselves, to build systems, platforms, and ideas that reflect our realities and serve our people."

Her efforts are bridging the gap between policy and practice, ensuring that innovation moves beyond conversations into tangible results that empower communities, create jobs, and promote inclusive growth.

EMPOWERING AFRICA THROUGH LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION & PURPOSE



Engr. Ibrahim Tayibu Umar, MNSE
Founder/CEO, EL-TAYIB ENERGY SYSTEMS

In a continent brimming with potential, Engr. Ibrahim Tayibu Umar stands out as one of Africa's most sought-after partners in the renewable energy space, a visionary engineer, entrepreneur, and humanitarian redefining what it means to power change.

As the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of EL-TAYIB ENERGY SYSTEMS, an Abuja-based renewable energy company, Engr. Ibrahim is driving a clean energy revolution across Nigeria. Under his leadership, EL-TAYIB has deployed sustainable solar solutions to power homes, schools, hospitals, and small businesses, improving livelihoods and reducing carbon footprints.

The company's projects have not only enhanced access to affordable power but have also created jobs, promoted innovation, and strengthened community resilience.

At the heart of his mission is a deep belief in empowerment through energy, ensuring that renewable power becomes a tool for social and economic transformation.

His commitment has positioned EL-TAYIB ENERGY SYSTEMS as a trusted partner for investors and development organizations seeking to accelerate Africa's transition to clean energy.

Beyond business, Engr. Ibrahim's leadership extends into education, mentorship, and community development. As Chairman of the University of Benin Alumni Association, Abuja Branch, and National Ameer of the Old Students Association of the School of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Afikpo, he champions youth mentorship, education, and moral leadership, nurturing the next generation of changemakers.

Through the EL-TAYIB Foundation, a family-led non-profit initiative, he is giving hope to vulnerable children by sponsoring their education and supporting disadvantaged families. The foundation is currently welcoming partnerships from global organizations to

scale its reach and impact, ensuring that no child's dream is cut short due to financial barriers.

A serial entrepreneur and Independent Representative of QNET, Engr. Ibrahim also empowers individuals through entrepreneurship, guiding them towards financial independence and self-discovery. His mentorship programs continue to inspire hundreds of young Nigerians to lead with integrity, discipline, and vision.

Engr. Ibrahim's outstanding contributions have earned him numerous awards, including honors from NANNs, NANS, and NAESS, as well as the Peace Icon Award from the Arewa Peace Ambassadors Forum in recognition of his leadership, innovation, and commitment to community development.

A proud Member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (MNSE), Engr. Ibrahim Tayibu Umar exemplifies excellence and purpose-driven leadership. His story is a testament to the power of vision, service, and innovation in shaping a sustainable future for Africa.

DR. SHU'AIBU ABDULRASHEED: CHAMPIONING FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT FOR NORTHERN WOMEN

THE UNSEEN COST OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: ITS IMPACT ON EARTH AND NATURE



In a bold move to drive grassroots economic transformation, Dr. Shu'aibu Abdulrasheed, President of the Nigerian Youth Progressive Movement (NYPM), recently empowered 500 women in Kabala, Kaduna State, providing them with access to finance to start or expand their small businesses.

This initiative is not just about financial aid, it's about restoring dignity, independence, and hope. With access to capital, these women can now support their households, cater to their children's education, and contribute meaningfully to their community's growth.

The program aligns with the efforts of Abdulazeez Kaka, a key actor in promoting economic development across Northern Nigeria, reflecting a shared vision for sustainable empowerment and inclusive growth.

Through the Nigerian Youth Progressive Movement (NYPM), Dr. Shu'aibu continues to open doors of opportunity, advocating for policies and partnerships that enable young people and women to thrive, proving that when women rise, families and nations prosper.



As Artificial Intelligence continues to revolutionize industries and redefine human productivity, a critical question arises, what effect will this technological dominance have on the Earth itself? The planet that provides our food, sustains our livelihoods, and shelters both humans and animals stands at the center of this transformation.

Renowned Indian scholar and environmental activist Vandana Shiva warns that replacing human intelligence, especially that of farmers with machine-driven artificial intelligence could have devastating consequences. According to her, this shift risks creating "fake food, fake economies, and the industrialization of natural resources." To prevent this looming crisis, Shiva advocates for the restoration of farmers to their farmlands to produce authentic, life-sustaining food using their natural intelligence. She calls for renewed global conversations around climate change and ecological preservation, emphasizing that healing the planet begins with returning organic matter to the soil and nurturing the interconnected health of people, plants, and animals. Her message is clear: as we advance in artificial intelligence, we must not lose touch with the natural intelligence that sustains life on Earth.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT LEADER, THE TITLE THEY HOLD, OR THE LEGACY THEY LEAVE BEHIND IN THOSE WHO COME AFTER THEM?



The process of appointing a Vice Chancellor in any university is one of the most critical decisions a governing council can make.

It is a call not only to academic brilliance and administrative experience but also to vision, integrity, and the ability to inspire the next generation.

Recounting his journey as a former Vice Chancellor of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Professor Uba shared insights that transcend personal achievement and speak directly to the soul of leadership.

Despite being considered for several top university appointments, he humbly declined until providence led him to serve as Vice Chancellor of NOUN between 2016 and 2021.

For him, leadership was never about the title, but about responsibility, a sacred duty to uphold standards, nurture excellence, and build a legacy that outlives the leader.

He described the office as one that demands time, discipline, focus, and the capacity to manage people and progress with sincerity and accountability.

HOW MUCH LONGER WILL NIGERIAN POLITICIANS OVERLOOK THE PRESSING REALITIES AFFECTING THE FATE AND FUTURE OF THE NATION'S YOUTH?



The former Minister of Education, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili has emphasized that the problems of youth idleness and unemployment are not complex and can be addressed.

Dr. Ezekwesili stated this during the World Economic Forum on Africa, which held in South Africa, where she noted that the number of frustrated Nigerian youth, as a result of the unemployment rate due to lack of job opportunities has further affected their fate in the country.

According to her, while these factors situate the country and it's politics on a bad space, She lamented that politicians and leaders have however continue to ascribe the challenges faced by most sectors as rocket science, and playing ostrich with issues affecting the fate of the youths, rather than learning from other nations on the path of making tough decision that could yield structural development.

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