

Funaab VC commends FG's agric agenda

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The Vice-Chancellor of Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Professor Olusola Bandele Oyewole has commended the transformation agenda of the President Goodluck Jonathan's led administration, describing it as pro-active.

Professor Oyewole gave the commendation in his welcome address at the fourth Nigeria International Poultry Summit held at the University's Postgraduate School Auditorium.

Declaring the university's support at tapping fully into the Federal Government's Transformation Agenda in all fields of agriculture, including poultry production, the Vice-Chancellor disclosed that FUNAAB has graduated not less than 40 Ph.D candidates in various fields of Poultry Science thus contributing immensely to national development. Professor Oyewole stated that this drive by the university is targeted at alleviating the food insecurity and sustainability challenge which has become a worldwide concern.

He pointed out that the university has established an Institute of Food Security, Environmental Resources and Agricultural Research (IFSERAR) as part of its efforts to effectively find practical solutions to the problems of food insecurity, while adding that research efforts invested in the development of indigenous meat, egg lines and novel feed resources by the Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics and the Department of Animal Nutrition has been a huge success.

The Vice-Chancellor also revealed that the Department of Animal Production and Health has developed small medium scale easily adaptable incubator for the hatching of fertile eggs which is undergoing further tests and is open for partnership to enhance further development and improvement.

Professor Oyewole who stressed that poultry meat and eggs provide high quality protein and micronutrients that are more easily taken up by the human body than plant-based nutrients, charged participants, policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders to take advantage of the summit to share and exchange ideas about some of the innovations for overcoming the challenges facing the poultry industry.

Meanwhile, the President, World Poultry Science Association, Nigeria Branch, (WPSA-NB) Professor Okanlawon Onagbesan has advocated for the advancement in scientific knowledge and promotion of continued development of the various aspects of poultry production as panacea to food insecurity and sustainability challenge being experienced in the world.

Speaking at the fourth Nigeria International Poultry Summit (NIPS) held at FUNAAB, Professor Onagbesan lamented that by international standard, protein intake by Nigerians is low, attributing the imbalance to unavailability and affordability of sources of protein.

According to him, the easiest and quickest way to bridge the unavailability gap is through the intake of poultry meat and eggs while adding that the adoption of innovative technologies and sustainability of production will help bridge the affordability gap.

The WPSA-NB President noted that the theme of the fourth NIPS, “Food Security Through Innovative Technology in Poultry Production”, is timely as it coincides with the transformation agenda of the Federal Government, of which the livestock sector of agriculture is a sub committee.

“Food security and sustainability has become a common phrase in government pronouncements. These cannot be achieved without scientific research. This requires adequate funding and cooperation with industry. Sustainability can only be ascertained through research. Then food security can be guaranteed”.

Professor Onagbesan assured that the summit would address issues of food security as it relates to the sustainability of meat and egg production, to enhance protein intake of the Nigerian populace.