



AGRICULTURE

Catalyst for Job Creation and Revenue Generation

Agriculture remains the bedrock of any nation, without it, mankind cannot survive. It has played a very important role in the history of Nigeria, particularly Ondo State. It is therefore not an overstatement to note that agriculture provides food, shelter, raw materials, employment and wealth for over 70% of the entire population in the State.

In the same vein, economic experts have also argued that the only viable way to survive the current economic logjam that has been escalated by COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, instability of oil price, insecurity and civil unrest is through a revolutionized agriculture. Consequently, agricultural development being a multi-sectorial activity vigorously supports and promotes positive change in both rural and urban areas, just as the main objective of agronomy remains the improvement of both material and social welfare of the people, at all levels.

Ondo State, an agrarian community is noted for vast expanse of land, suitable for agricultural activities. Empirical studies have revealed that virtually all crops can be grown in the State, across the three senatorial zones, though, there are some crops with comparative advantages over others in some areas, owing to natural endowment of network of rivers, good weather condition, creeks and coastal environment that support all year round agricultural production.

In fulfillment of his promise to the people of the State, the Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, led administration in the past four years has been proactive in its response to food needs of the people. Apart from declassifying 100,000 hectares of land for tree crops production, almost 1,500 hectares of land across the three senatorial districts have been cleared and distributed to interested youths for cocoa plantation.

Contd. on Pg 3.

Editorial

MAKING AGRICULTURE THE MAINSTAY OF ODSG ECONOMY

Ondo State is known as an agrarian Community with a very large part of her over 5 million population (2020 projected figure) involved directly or indirectly in agriculture. The State is blessed with fertile land mass of over 14 million square kilometres and long coastal environment to support an unimaginable quantum of agricultural activities beyond the present subsistent level.

Though we are one of the eight oil producing States of the Federation, evidently, this can no longer sustain us, especially in the face of fluctuating International oil prices and the fact that developed countries world-wide are shifting focus from use of crude oil products to renewable energy technology. This goes to support the fact that as a Nation, Nigeria and Ondo State in particular, we cannot continue to depend on the already dwindling federal allocation, which is heavily reliant on earnings from crude oil sales.

So, how do we solve the numerous challenges confronting us? Problems such as youth unemployment, decline in revenue, lack of fund for infrastructural development, inadequate attention to various sectors like health and education, irregular workers' salaries/allowances plus pension/gratuity, to mention but a few. Perhaps, the solution lies in steadily increasing our Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), Covid-19 or no Covid-19. Only by so doing can we be self reliant like Lagos State and not helplessly wait for federal allocation at the end of every month. This is the vision of Mr. Governor.

The next question is how do we bring about the desired increase in IGR to everyone's satisfaction? This edition of ODSIP Newsletter is taking a critical look at how we can turn our potentials in agriculture to solution for the afore-mentioned challenges. Agriculture must be taken beyond subsistent level to business level, in the real sense of it. That is, a foreign exchange earner and source of wealth for us all. Forest regeneration, irrigation farming(all-year-round), vast fish and other animal husbandry production, deployment of technology, massive planting of economic trees (to replace the ones we inherited from Late Papa Awolowo and others), promoting genuine farmers' organisations/groups, steadily increasing our cash crops production, facilitating easy access to low interest rate loans/funds for genuine farmers, mechanised farming and all agriculture related value-chain activities, must be given utmost priority.

Akeredolu's rewarding approach in the Agriculture sector is multidimensional. From forest regeneration to public-private agro-business initiatives, to one-digit interest loan support to farmers; from free land-clearing to supply of high-yeilding seedlings to Youth-in-Agric initiatives; from establishment of farm settlements to arrangement for farm produce uptakers; from Cocoa revolution initiatives to simplified land acquisition for agricultural business, to mention but a few. Mr. Governor's words and actions on the Agriculture sector are perfectly squaring up.

Fellow Public Servants and Readers of our cherished ODSIP Newsletter, I am pleased to join you as the new Head of Service and Publisher/Editor-in-Chief. With your cooperation and support, we will continue the good work from where Mr. 'Dare Aragbaiye left it. I invite you all to sit back and have reading pleasure of the articles and other issues contained in this 4th edition. I enjoy us all to make use of our feedback channels. I trust that you will digest and put to practice all the good tenets of ODSIP for an improved society. Thank you all. ■

'Niran Adeyemo, mni.

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief



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AGRICULTURE: Catalyst for Job Creation and Revenue Generation (Contd).

Today, 250,000 suckers of giant elephant plantain and relatively 200,000 cocoa seedlings have been planted by 600 interested farmers at Ijugbere cocoa city in Owo Local Government Area of Ondo State, while more than 500 hectares of land have been cleared in more than ten sites in the State, for arable production.

The livestock sector is not left out in the transformation agenda, with the construction of a modern pig village on-going in Akure and a 100,000 capacity modern poultry house at Isuada under a build and transfer initiative. Likewise, in order to reduce drudgery in farm operations throughout the State, the present administration procured twenty-six (26) new tractors with auxiliary implements distributed to farmers at subsidized rate. The tractors are expected to service willing and enthusiastic farmers for their land preparation exercise and other farm operations. On fisheries and aquaculture, the dam at Epe has been rehabilitated for optimum water harvest, to service the over 150 earthen ponds which have also been rehabilitated.

In addition to the above, the present administration gave loans to farmers to boost their production, among many other interventions and assistance such as provision of 1000 beehives and bee suits to members of Bee Keepers Association; as well as training and empowerment of 100 women on weaving and sewing. Two female staff of the Centre were sponsored to India for training on modern methods of weaving. Likewise, the government empowered rice farmers with soft loans to produce rice en masse; while 100 youths were trained on the use of hydraform machine for brick making. The present administration also embraced technological breakthrough in its agribusiness, as over 100 farmers were trained and encouraged to make use of drones in farm activities, in order to lessen their burden and increase their productivity. This is referred to as Smart Farming.

An in-depth look at the disposition of Akeredolu's administration shows Agriculture as a key point agenda in the **REDEEMED** policy of Ondo State. As part of measures put in place to achieve this, the government reinvigorated the agricultural sector of the State to create jobs, guarantee food security, generate more income for both the people and government through refined measures that indicate a paradigm shift from the analogue approach to a more scientific, efficient and technology-driven agricultural society.

There is therefore the need for all agencies that are involved in the agriculture value chain in the State, that is, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ondo State Agricultural Development Project (ADP), Cocoa Revolution Agency (CRA), Agricultural Input Supply Agency (AISA) and Ondo State Agribusiness Empowerment Centre (OSAEC) to synergise for a more sustainable development of the sector, in line with the philosophy and tenets of the Ondo Service Improvement Programme (ODSIP) and the **One-Administration** mantra of Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN.

Across the agriculture value chain of Ondo State, there are ample employment opportunities, income for stakeholders and the government, raw materials for agro-based industries and foreign exchange earner for the country.

This synergy will enable the State dwell on its comparative advantages that include agro-forestry, with a wide variety of exotic and indigenous trees (Teak, Gmelina, Mansonia, Afara, Obese, Opepe, etc.), cocoa, palm kernel, kolanut, rubber, and cashew nuts, abound in the State. All these call for a collective effort towards achieving the second term agenda of the present administration (**REDEEMED**), to articulate the core values of the State "**ISE LOOGUN ISE**" and ensure an atmosphere where natural resources are abundantly provided, sustainably managed to foster environmental stability.

For example, in the Forestry sub-sector, its activities span towards sustainability of the ecosystem, specifically the environment; while various afforestation programmes were targeted at contributing in no small measure to combating the negative effects of climate change and in turn global warming. All these are added credentials to the sixteen (16) forest reserves domiciled in the State with a total area of 3,076sqm out of the State total land area of 14,788.723sqm.

The abundant Forest resources (timber and non-timber products) from the 16 forest reserves have contributed immensely to the socio-economic life of the people in the State by generating means of livelihood, job, food, shelter and income. The timber products from the forest (both Reserves and Free Areas) are used to feed 621 sawmill units across the State, which process forest products into finished products. This subsector, as such, generates over 250,000 employment opportunities.

As part of efforts to generate revenue and promote quality agricultural products for the State, the Produce sub-sector handles agricultural commodities in post-harvest forms. The main task here is to inspect, grade, pass and monitor scheduled farm Produce (such as cocoa beans, palm kernel nut, cashew nut, rubber, coffee, Kolanut, etc.).

The State through the agribusiness arm also designed a programme tagged 'Youths On The Ridges', modified to revolutionize completely the agricultural profession and make it more attractive and lucrative as against the crude and drudgery kind it used to be. This administration targeted the engagement of 18,000 participants with an average of 1,000 per local government. Thus, training and empowering over 10,000 participants in agriculture related businesses.

From the foregoing, it can be boldly said that the goal of Ondo State is to become the bedrock of agriculture in Nigeria and ensure the lost glory in agricultural production in the south west is rekindled without any contradiction or insinuation from any quarter, especially with the REDEEMED Agenda.

In addition to all these innovations, Governor Akeredolu led administration recently alleviated the challenges of farmers in the procurement of agricultural inputs, as leverage against their inability to produce. The State Government supported farmers in the State with the provision of subsidized agricultural materials that cut across all agricultural ventures as a way of cushioning the multi-faceted effects of COVID-19 pandemic and Climate change.

There is therefore no gainsaying the fact that Ondo State is embracing agriculture under a conducive environment. This is because the government believes we must produce what we eat and eat what we produce. It encourages secondary schools to practice agriculture, hence, drip lines, seeds, seed trays, fertilizers and other inputs were distributed to some secondary schools, coupled with relevant training for them on how to practice it. This in no doubt will boost the school's internally generated revenue (IGR), through the sale of the vegetables and so on.

It is also worthy to note that the current administration is leaving no stone unturned to promote agricultural development in the State and hence its reflection in the second term mantra – REDEEMED. The Government is therefore confident that agriculture will play a key role in the creation of job opportunities and increased revenue generation through the promotion and support for crops, livestock and fisheries production.

Conclusively, Ondo State Government is presently in partnership with a non-governmental organization for the provision of water by solar energy for crops. This, among others is one of the proactive measures being adopted to curtail and guide against the negative effect of irregular rainfall experienced by farmers. It is believed that the pragmatic ideas being initiated and implemented by the government to reposition the State's agricultural sector, would ensure food security, job creation and increased revenue generation in the State. ■

This article was prepared with inputs from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ondo State Agri-business Entrepreneurship Centre and their Change Ambassadors

ODSIP PHOTO SPEAK



ODSIP Newsletter Editorial Team meets New HoS, 'Niran Adeyemo, mni



ONDOHRM Team meets New HoS, 'Niran Adeyemo, mni



Change Ambassadors meet New HoS, 'Niran Adeyemo, mni



Mr. O.S Akingbasote at OSRC, educating the Public on the essence of ODSIP and ONDOHRM

ODSIP in action

YOU and the R U L E S

 Aderemi Olabode



DISCIPLINE, MISCONDUCT AND PUNISHMENT

If there are no regulations, rules and laws, the Public Service in fact wouldn't have been in existence, let alone functional. Therefore, for the Public Service to achieve its aims, a set of rules and codes of conduct were put in place so that services can be delivered effectively and efficiently.

Consequently, it is expected that every Public Servant should strictly comply with the provisions of the Rules. The overall aim of the public service rules is to ensure good conduct, loyalty, courtesy, hard work, efficiency and ethical principles. Despite this, we cannot but have some erring officers.

Discipline generally refers to good conduct and behavior. Anything contrary to this becomes indiscipline. Acts of indiscipline in the Public Service has been broadly classified into two – misconduct and serious misconduct.

Misconduct is an act of wrong doing or an improper behavior which is inimical to the image of the Service and if proven on investigation, it can lead to termination and compulsory retirement. Rule 04102 defines misconduct as “a willful act or omission which prejudices the proper administration of the department of Government in which an officer is employed, or prejudices the order and discipline of the Civil Service or which brings the service into disrepute, including the following:

- (a) Conviction of a criminal offence
- (b) Debt through imprudence or other reprehensible cause (Rule 04202) b
- (c) Engaging in Business contrary to Rule 04204
- (d) Disobedience of a lawful order i.e Refusal to take/carry out lawful instructions from superior officers etc.
- (e) Disclosure of official information, Rule 04205

Others include: Habitual lateness to work, Deliberate delay in treating official documents, Failure to keep records, Unauthorized removal of public records, Dishonesty, Sleeping on duty, Improper dressing while on duty, Hawking merchandise within office premises, Discourteous behavior to the public. ■

MINISTRY OF HEALTH EMBARKS ON SANITATION EXERCISE

On the 4th of April, 2021, the Ondo State Ministry of Health lived up to the message it preaches, by embarking on a thorough cleaning exercise within its office premises. All Officers were involved, including the Permanent Secretary, Pharm. (Mrs) Folukemi Aladenola and the Change Ambassador, Mrs Oladele. The cleaning was done, to buttress the importance of ODSIP tenets in MDAs.

4TH AND 5TH HOS INTERACTION WITH CHANGE AMBASSADORS

The 4th edition of HoS Interaction with Change Ambassadors was held in the month of February, 2021. It was the valedictory edition for the immediate past Head of Service, Mr. Dare Aragbaiye, as he retired from active service. Among other events of the day were the presentations on driving Reforms at the Local Government level and Sustaining Reforms in the Public Service, in view of the new **REDEEMED** policy direction of Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN.

The 5th edition of the Interaction was the maiden one for the incumbent Head of Service, 'Niran Adeyemo, mni. He pledged his support to the initiative and encouraged the ambassadors to be diligent in the discharge of their duties at all times.

In view of the new policy direction of government and its emphasis on performance, the Coordinator, Transition Strategy and Implementation Committee, Dr. Patrick Tolani delivered a paper on the Concept of Performance Evaluation. Also, Change Ambassadors were taken on a practical tour of the Ondo Human Resource Management Software (ONDOHRM) which is the tool employed for Personnel Management in the State. ■

ODSIP Update

-  Oluwagbenga Akingbasote
-  Olumuyiwa Akinkuolie

PS, REFORM NOW A MEMBER OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman and Members of the Senior Management Committee (SMC) at a meeting held in the Office of the Head of Service on the 19th of February, 2021 took a unanimous decision to bestow membership of the Committee on the Permanent Secretary, Department of Public Service Reform and Development (DPSRD), otherwise called the Reform Office. The conferment of membership was as a result of the pivotal role the Reform Office plays in ensuring improved service delivery and the overall development of the Public Service.

The Senior Management Committee, which is the highest decision making committee in the Civil Service of Ondo State, among other things, decides and makes recommendations to the Civil Service Commission on matters of officers on Grade Levels 13 and above. The Committee is now comprised of 8 members.

ONDO STATE GETS NEW HEAD OF SERVICE AND 19 ADDITIONAL PERMANENT SECRETARIES

Following the retirement of the 13th Head of Service (HoS), Mr Dare Aragbaiye, the Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN on the 12th of March, 2021 swore-in Pastor John Adeniran Adeyemo, mni as the 14th Head of Service of Ondo State.

Adeniran joined the Ondo State Public Service in 1990 as an Administrative Officer II and rose through the ranks, holding various posts across Ministries, Departments and Agencies till he became a Permanent Secretary in 2017. Until his appointment as HoS, he was the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Orientation. His track record as an astute officer distinguished him and set him apart for the coveted position. Adeniran is a member of so many administrative bodies, including the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Jos.

Meanwhile, earlier that week, precisely 18th March, 2021, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu appointed a set of 19 Permanent Secretaries, 3 Tutors-General and the State's Statistician-General. Among the appointed Permanent Secretaries is Mr. Oluwagbenga Akingbasote, the Permanent Secretary, Reform Office. We say congratulations!

CONDUCT OF 2021 PROMOTION EXERCISE USING ONDOHRM DATA

The 2021 Promotion Exercise of the Ondo State Public Service witnessed a new dimension. Unlike previous exercises which required a manual and cumbersome consultation of mountains of files, the 2021 promotion exercise experienced the utilization of data from the Ondo Human Resource Management portal which was initiated by the Reform Office in collaboration with Office of Establishments and Training. Qualified candidates were required to present their respective bio-data forms to verify their basic records which were captured some months earlier.

This positive paradigm shift is in consonance with Mr. Governor's REDEEMED agenda of "Digital Revolution and Entrepreneurship".

It would be recalled that usage of the ONDOHRM portal was flagged-off in December 2020. The portal is meant to be a dashboard for records of all Civil Servants in the State. The just completed first phase of the software development involved the capturing of basic information of Staff, which will be utilized for routine Human Resource activities such as promotion, retirement computations and so on. The second phase is already underway and would be deployed very soon.

TRANSITION STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETS STAKEHOLDERS IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND INVESTMENT SECTORS.

In April, 2021, the Transition Strategy and Implementation Committee headed by the Special Adviser, Mr. Dare Aragbaiye met Sectoral Stakeholders in Education, Health, Agriculture and Investment. The Engagement which was done in conjunction with Office of the Head of Service was aimed at fostering internal and external synergy among stakeholders. It was also targeted at harvesting the opinion of end users on services rendered by government in these sectors and also drawing suggestions that could make the second term in office of Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu a success.

ODSG REGISTERS UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES

Ondo State Government is carrying out registration of unemployed graduates in the 18 LGAs of the State. The Exercise is being coordinated by the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs under the supervision of the Deputy Governor, H.E. Hon. Lucky Aiyedatiwa. This is being done because planning is very important. ■

ODSIP Lens

CASES OF OFFICERS PROCEEDING ON LEAVE WITHOUT APPROVAL AND ABSCONDMENT

Attention has been drawn to a fraudulent practice by some Public Servants that have perfected the act of getting approval for study leave and at the expiration of such, request for extension three or four times over. Some even proceed on study leave before the approval is granted.

The dastardly act has fostered the continuance of payment of free salaries for work not done. When such officers are discovered however, they hurriedly put in their papers for retirement, so as to continue earning pension and gratuity, at the expense of government.

ODSIP Lens was pleased when the matter was addressed through Service Matters Department Circular SMD1/10T/69 of 3rd March, 2021. It is interesting to note that the Senior Management Committee (SMC) headed by the Head of Service, is taking a critical look at the offenders and also their supervising officers, who fail to report such infraction. The inquiry is also going beyond the Civil Service to the Teaching and Health Sectors where it is reported to be very prevalent.

ODSIP Lens believes that this will help put an end to the nefarious acts which can be likened to economic sabotage.

Words on MARBLE

Be the Change that you wish to see in the World

MAHATMA GHANDI

Letter to the EDITOR 

NOTE: All letters to the Editor should be directed to: odsipnewsletter@gmail.com OR WhatsApp 08160622636

PUZZLE

A 7 men have 7 wives. Each man and each wife have 7 children. What is the total number of people?

B Add 1 line to make the equation true
 $5 + 5 + 5 + 5 = 555$
 P.S. You cannot cross the equal sign

You can send your answers to the Managing Editor. Handsome rewards await the winners.

ODSIP Lens contd.

MORE INDUSTRIALISATION EFFORTS BY AKETI



Yours sincerely represented ODSIP Lens at the 2nd Term Inauguration of Governor Akeredolu and his Deputy, Ayedatiwa on 24th February, 2021. Of particular interest out of all the souvenirs distributed to guests at the event, which was held at the Dome, were packs of **Idan Chocolate** from the new Chocolate Factory at Alade, Idanre and packs of neat **Tooth Picks** also made in Ondo State by OWPPIN Ltd, Ondo road, Akure.

No doubt, these will add to the numerous industrialization efforts of Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu SAN which we believe will fetch Ondo State the desired foreign exchange earnings and provide job opportunities for the youths. ■



8 POINT Agenda

Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN

REDEEMED

RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MASSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL WELFARE

MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER FOR ADEQUATE SECURITY

ENERGY, MINING AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

DIGITAL REVOLUTION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



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