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TI Fényes

The Children-in-Agriculture Programme (CIAP) is an integrated human development and agricultural development initiative aimed at building farming knowledge, skills, experience and dignity of honest labour into the socialization and education process right from childhood. The overall goal is to institutionalise CIAP into a programme for promoting continuity of farming and sustainable agricultural productivity as a panacea for food, self-sufficiency, the nutritional well-being of people, modernization and industrialization of agriculture, popularisation of farming as income earning and profitable ventures for rural transformation, quality of life enhancement and overall development of the economy. The CIAP-Nigeria holds an annual conference and network meetings. After an International Roundtable Discussion held at Lagos in Nigeria with participants from 12 African countries in August 2002, the CIAP-Africa Network agreed to launch the African Journal of Farm Child and Youth Development. Seven articles were included in its inaugural issue.

SK Subair and FM Tladi (University of Botswana) showed in their paper 'Perceptions of secondary schools agriculture teachers towards the factors influencing attrition in the Teaching Service Commission of Botswana' that five factors influenced the attrition of teachers in Botswana. These were remuneration, advancement, working conditions, administration factors and professional factors. The authors urge the government to increase the remuneration of teachers to stem the rate of attrition from secondary schools.

In his paper entitled ‘Inaugurating a global rural youth development network: a participant’s experience from Herrsching workshop in Germany’, DO Torimiro (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria)
documented the experience he gained from the 21st International workshop for Rural Youth Leaders. It was revealed that the participants of the developing regions of the world are more enthusiastic about the global network than their European counterparts.

‘The impact of university-based rural youth Extension project in selected villages: Kaduna-State, Nigeria’ was the title of the article by JG Akpoko (Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria). The author addressed the concern of slow adaptation of modern agricultural techniques.

In Nigeria the National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services has established a rural youths extension outreach project to encourage the youth to adopt modern techniques of agricultural production.

CJC Akunbuilo (Enugu State University, Nigeria) discussed the adoption of agricultural innovations by Children-in-Agriculture Programme (CIAP) members in Enugu State of Nigeria. The results of this study suggest that formation of youth clubs in schools, scholarships, interest-free loans for viable agricultural projects and ensuring that every primary school has a garden while every secondary school has a modest farm, may help to encourage further innovations.

EC Onyeneje (University of Nigeria, Nsukka Nigeria) investigated the Children-in Agriculture Programme in secondary schools from a psychological perspective. According to him educational, vocational and emotional problems are trouble spots for psychologists and educationists working in the CIAP network. He makes several recommendations for effective counselling that will make the youth develop positive attitudes towards agriculture.

‘Motivation and staff morale: Implications for the Children-in Agriculture Programme (CIAP) in post-primary institutions in Enugu educational zone of Nigeria’ is the title of the article by JU Mbgada (Enugu State University, Nigeria). She concluded that motivating Agricultural Science teachers in the study area is a sine qua non for effective realization for CIAP aims and objectives.

The final article of this volume, ‘Female children participation in household food security in Ijebu North area of Nigeria by SF Adedoyin, BA Adebayo and EO Fapojuwo (Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria) concluded that female children’s participation in household food security activities should not be equated with child labour or child abuse. It must rather be regarded as a programme for their involvement in the effort to meet household food
requirements, to enhance their levels of self-discipline, and to build their capacity towards self-reliance.

The Journal’s Editorial Board invites contributions by Agricultural economists and practitioners of relevant disciplines such as Agricultural Extensions, Agricultural education, Rural Sociology and Psychology. Their multi-disciplinary approach is a shining example of the call of AEASA’s President, Prof Johann Kirsten, in his presidential address to the South African Agricultural Economics Association’s recent conference, to become involved with other related disciplines in our research and problem solving efforts.

CIAP-Africa invites all Africans to join the Network. The papers reviewed and the author’s guide is available from the editorial office. Manuscripts should be submitted to The Editor-in-Chief. E-mail: fnyesti@marlin.vista.ac.za