

AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION FORUM 2019

I was given opportunity by YouthLead to attend AGRF 2019 conference. During this conference I undertook many activities for YouthLead and also attended some of the sessions of the AGRF. The AGRF 2019 took place at Accra International Conference Centre, Ghana. The main theme of this forum is 'GROW DIGITAL' which is aimed at leveraging digital transformation to drive sustainable food system in Africa. During the conference, I gained a lot of experiences through the participation of the YouthLead activities and some of the AGRF sessions. In the YouthLead activities, I spoke to some of the people around about YouthLead and how beneficial it is for one to be a member of YouthLead. Also, I shared and invited people to join YouthLead on social media. With regard to the AGRF sessions, one of the sessions of this forum was basically looking **at how well the data revolution deliver better agronomy at scale for African?** This section talks about how agricultural data is much important to the sustainability of food security in the African continent. According to one of the speakers, there is pressure on our earth resources which affect food security therefore technology is very important in agriculture. Technology helps improve healthy soil, which translate into healthy crop and healthy people. This session encourage the use of technology to acquire transparent in order to achieve sustainable agriculture. During this session, Innovative Solutions for Decision Agriculture (ISDA) also presented on the importance of data in agriculture. According to them, data lead to the enablement of smallholder farm profitability by harnessing science and others. They pointed out that technology would open a lot of opportunities for farmers and therefore farmers should be encourage to include digital technology in their activities. This session basically concluded on how we can customize digital data in agriculture.

My Second Session was Presidential Summit of AGRF 2019

I had the opportunity to attend presidential summit. During this summit, some of the African presidential staffs and other dignitaries from the other part of the world were there. They all shared their views on how to inculcate digital technology into agriculture. Presidential summit brought out the views of the various governments in some of the African countries. According to president of the republic of Ghana, H.E President Nana Akufo Addo, agriculture is made up of five models and digital technology should be employed in this models. According to him, these models are food crop model, tree crop model, livestock model, greenhouse model, and mechanisation model. Also, during the presidential panel discussion, president of the republic

of Ghana stated that technology in agriculture does not benefit only the farmers but also helps the government in policies making. This discussion pointed out that the use of digital technology in agriculture has brought in most of the youth into sector as said. Export benefit of agriculture was not left during the summit. Most of the spoke person of this summit admitted that Africa should look at the benefits of agriculture and invest more into it. In addition, there were concerns raised on the benefit of growing digital in agriculture. The major benefit was that it helps boost the interest of the youth in agriculture since the youths are technologically minded. Impact of climate change was also one of the major issues raise. From my experience during the summit, impact of the climate change is a great challenge facing Africa agriculture development and therefore there is the need for policy makers, NGOs, and Business men to invest in. Investment in climate change would have great impact on our agriculture sector. Agriculture need to be given priority in our continent (Africa).

My third session was evidence-based leadership and data system session

This session was on *evidence-based leadership and data system*. It was basically looking at how agriculture data is acquired and how transparency the collection of this data is. This section elaborated on how relevant digital data is useful to the agriculture development and how data are collected with reliability. From the discussion, it can be infer that digital agriculture data is collected by satellite. USAID recommended investment in data since data has great influence on the output. I have realised that agriculture is one of the lucrative business that the youth can take advantage of. My general advice to my colleagues (youth) is that, there are a lot in agriculture beyond expectation. My experiences during this conference has opened my eyes that technology is employed in agriculture to make thing simple for smallholder farmers and therefore there is the need for the youth to involve in agriculture since what is used in offices can be used in agriculture too.