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## Large Scale Rice Production Underway In Edo

Posted by [Otedo News Update](#) on June 4, 2011 at 8:30pm [View Blog](#)

OBSERVER

### Large Scale Rice Production Underway In Edo

By Morrison Hayble

Last updated: 06/04/2011

A gigantic agricultural and rural development programme that would guarantee food security and employment in Nigeria and Edo State in particular is being kick started in Etsako Central Local Government Area of the state.

The programme, aided by an international consortium, Transformation Agritech Nigeria Limited is currently embarking on commercial rice production as it's core crop through mechanized farming covering over 10,000 (Ten thousand) hectares.

Group Operations and Project Development Director of the company, Dr. Sample Ibemerum who spoke with The Weekend Observer on the initiative explained that the favourable climatic condition of the Niger Delta region for rice made it imperative to engage in the programme which he said would also go a long way to generate employment, eradicate poverty, evolve capacity building, training and exchange.



He disclosed that the company was set to produce the same kind of rice being imported into the country through the assistance of the government of the United Kingdom and Vietnam assuring that Nigeria would no longer import rice by the year 2013.

Dr. Sample Ibemerum described as scandalous, situation whereby Nigeria was still importing rice involving huge financial outlay of about two billion dollars annually when in fact it had the wherewithal including abundance of land emphasizing that the company was set to reverse the trend.

The company's Director noted that rice was considered for the programme being the second highest staple food in the world even as its by-products would also be utilized as convertible energy sources as well.

Dr. Ibemerum recalled that Vietnam was reduced to the fourth poorest nation in the world after the American war in 1975 but thereafter transformed itself to a major emerging nation through rice cultivation having being endowed with fresh water and swampy soil suitable for the crop adding that Nigeria could also do same to wipe out poverty and emerge a great nation.



While assuring that the programme would be consistently sustained to realize the goal, the Director disclosed that a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU was signed between Edo State Government and the company in 2010 for the actualization of the scheme and called on both the federal and state governments to support the programme by providing the needed enabling environment for it to succeed.

----- ( An extract from Edo people and culture: Encyclopedia of World Cultures-- <http://ihuanedo.ning.com/profiles/blogs/what-do-you-know-about-benin> and "Industrializing Edo state by By Eranga OMO-EHIABHI Isaac"

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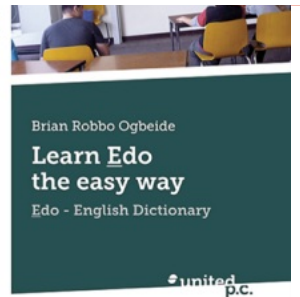
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