



Economic Commission for Africa

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ANDI establishes 32 Centres of Excellence in Health Innovation in Africa

The African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDI) has concluded its annual stakeholders meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the recognition of 32 African institutions as ANDI Centres of Excellence in health innovation.

The meeting was attended by over 400 participants including scientists, policy makers, donors, governmental and non-governmental organizations from Africa and overseas. Several interactive panel discussions focusing on partnerships, financing as well as local pharmaceutical manufacturing

took place.

Speaking during the conference, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Ms Jennifer Kargbo, said: "There are serious fears that Africa may not meet some of the health-related targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and ECA sees ANDI as key mechanism for achieving the MDGs and promoting regional integration and economic growth."

Special to ECA, for full story: http://www.unece.org/eca_resources/Press_Releases/2011_pressreleases/ANDIclosingPressRelease.pdf

NEPAD Agency, policy makers highlight Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day as a key platform for action

NEPAD Agency in partnership with policy makers from across the continent highlighted the Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day as a key platform for continental efforts against hunger and malnutrition.

Mr. Sicelo Gqobana, Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Health for the Eastern Cape of South Africa insisted that researchers, policy makers and partners need to harmonise and coordinate their efforts in order to attain food and nutrition security. "We need to close the gap between govern-

ment programmes, the research work of tertiary institutions and the implementers on the ground," Mr. Gqobana said on day 2 during an event in Midrand to commemorate the 2nd Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day (AFNSD), which is marked on 30th October every year.

The Adviser for Agriculture in the Office of the President of Uganda, JJ Otim, reiterated that there was a need for improved communication and the implementation of concrete actions in the fight against hunger and malnutrition in Africa.

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Food and Nutrition Security is the foundation of survival and health, says Jean Ping

Africa has the potential to feed itself, but after more than 50 years of independence, the continent still suffers from widespread malnutrition while spending millions of US dollars annually to import food from the global market. Yet the continent, unlike Asia, has immense land and water resources that could be utilized to boost food production. 240 million people in Africa are undernourished (consume less than the required recommended 2100kcal/day); 5 million children die of malnutrition every year. This is equivalent to a child dying every 6 seconds. Malnutrition is the leading cause of death (35% of child deaths per year). Over 50 million African children suffer from chronic malnutrition which translates to about 40-60% of these children being stunted (low height for age). Over 40% of pregnant women are malnourished.

This was the general message at the first anniversary of the African Food and Nutrition Security Day celebrations held at the Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa, on October 31.

The Agriculture Ministry of Ethiopia, representatives of the Government of Malawi, representatives from the EU, the Africa Rice Center, NGOs, CSOs, UN Agencies, AUC, NEPAD agency and representatives of the Member States of the AU today met to commemorate the 2nd annual Africa Food and Nutrition Security day in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Investing in intra-African trade for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa"

The Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day was adopted during the 15th AU Summit in Kampala, Uganda and the first commemoration was held in Malawi in October 2010. This year's theme calls for:

- An increase in the volume of high value and nutritious foods
- Enhancing of national and regional markets and cross-border trade
- Enhancing of regional and local emergency response and capacity to deal with crises
- Stepping up of efforts to prioritise harmonisation of SPS frameworks

For full story: www.nepad.org

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"We also need a platform for sharing information and lobbying those in higher authority at the national and regional levels – so that they can assist to enact some of our proposals," said Mr. Otim.

Speaking at the same event, Mr. Richard Mkandawire the Head of the Directorate for Partnerships, Resource Mobilisation and Communications stressed that there was still need for political will in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Source: www.nepad.org

Upcoming Event

- CEO Infrastructure Projects Summit and Investment Awards, 3 - 4 Nov 2011, South Africa
- Regional Forum on Science Technology and Innovation in Africa, 7 - 11 Nov 2011, Kenya
- African ICT Week, 14 -20 Nov 2011, Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia
- 17th Meeting of Africa Partnership Forum, 15-17 Nov 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- UN-RCM, 21 - 22 Nov 2011 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Africa Trade Forum, 22-24 Nov 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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