



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

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NEPAD challenges students on their role in Africa's development

In commemoration of South Africa's Youth Day on June 16, the NEPAD Agency hosted some University students to brainstorm on developmental issues confronting Africa. Selected students from various institutions across the continent discussed their perception and thoughts of the Youth, their prospects for the future and role in Africa's development.

Thirty-six years ago, when high-school students in Soweto, a South African township near Johannesburg, started agitating for better education, a group of youths with boldness and determination revolted against the system to make their voices heard and consequently bring about a positive change. These youths recognised that their destiny rested squarely in their hands, and in spite of the overwhelming odds against them, bring about meaningful change.

In celebrating this Day, NEPAD provided students a platform to voice out their thoughts on infrastructural issues, poverty reduction and agriculture as well as to get them acquainted with some of NEPAD's activities. This is more compelling as Africa has the largest youthful population with two-hundred million under the age of 30. It has increased pressure on African leadership to develop dynamic and concrete solutions for their growing demands.

Addressing the Youths in a video message, NEPAD Agency's Chief Executive Office Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki said that the day is a reminder that voices of the youths need to be heard in order to solve development issues facing the continent.

"Our youths are key to realising an African Renaissance and platforms such as this one offered by NEPAD is a good one for discourse on Africa's development," he said. During the discussions the students stressed the importance to accelerate youth empowerment and to find adequate channels to have their voices aired as they have the greatest stake in Africa's future.

"We need youth to champion development initiatives like NEPAD, youth that can influence other youth," Nokuthula Vilakazi,

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Correction

TerrAfrica and World Bank's \$2 billion

In our story published on 20 June 2012 titled "NEPAD Agency says \$2 billion committed to Great Green Wall", we wrote, inter alia, "...about \$2 billion had been set aside to support the Great Green Wall project in the Sahel and West Africa". This is not correct.

The correct text should have been "In the context of the TerrAfrica partnership, the World Bank was able to mobilize \$ 2b to support the Great Green Wall initiative through the Sahel and West Africa Program"

Janneh says CAADP holds key to Africa's food security

Stressing that development partners had not delivered on their commitment to significantly increase support to agriculture in Africa, UN Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, Abdoulaye Janneh, said in Rio on Thursday that fewer than 10 African countries had, themselves allocated 10 percent of their budget to agriculture as agreed at the African Union Summit in Maputo almost ten years ago.

Mr. Janneh was speaking during a side event on "Green growth and sustainable development: regional perspectives" organized by the five UN Regional Commissions at the margins of Rio+20.

Janneh said that due to years of neglect, African agriculture is still marked by small-holder subsistence farms, low technology agricultural production systems and poor infrastructure while private investment in the sector had been impeded by a lack of enabling policy and institutional environments.

Yet, said Janneh, in order to achieve food security, Africa's agriculture needs to be transformed through an integrated approach to "more productive, competitive and market-oriented agricultural systems grounded on sustainable farming systems and business models."

He said the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) could help Africa achieve this transformation. CAADP is a coherent African-led and African-owned framework targeted at achieving an annual growth rate of 6 percent in agriculture, developing dynamic domestic and regional agricultural markets making Africa a be exporter of

agricultural products and strategic player in agricultural science and technology development and ensuring sustainable management of the natural resource base.

Janneh said that in order for Africa to realize the CAADP promise and its full potential of greening agriculture for enhanced food security, the continent's farmers should be "linked backward to agricultural input markets and forward to product markets which, with rapid urbanization, are increasingly demanding for processed food and agricultural products".

Source: Special to ECA, for full story: <http://www.uneca.org/>

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NEPAD challenges...

a PhD student of the University of Pretoria, said.

Participants were briefed on how NEPAD is tackling development issues through its flagship programmes.

In an effort to put the youth at the centre of sustainable development, NEPAD promised to seek avenues for knowledge exchanging such as university tours, social media engagements and the development of an African Youth think tank as a means to recognise that young people are an important and inalienable asset towards development.

Source: www.nepad.org

Upcoming Events

- Presentation of the work programme of the UN Ten Year Capacity Building support to the AU, tomorrow, at 02: 00 PM, Venue, AUC new conference center.
- 16th Biennial International Institute of Fisheries Economics & (IIFET) Conference, 16 -20 July 2012, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Please let us hear from you

How useful do you find NEPAD Today? Are there other issues you would like us to address? Please send an email to: maregaz@uneca.org