

Nigeria: Mimiko Calls for More Partnership With Farmers

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Akure — The Ondo state governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko has urged agricultural associations and groups to unite in order to boost his administration's commitment to enhancing improved annual productivity of farmers in the state.

The governor spoke at an interactive session with representatives of various agricultural groups in the state. While pointing out that farmers played a critical role in nation building, he solicited their



Governor Olusegun Mimiko

cooperation for sustainable growth in the agriculture sector.

Mimiko who called for more partnership with private investors asked the farmers to concentrate more on agricultural production in other to improve the economy of the country.

His words, "Government has a fundamental responsibility to support agriculture in order to make the sector more attractive and achieve food

security in the country, as there is no place in the world where agriculture is not subsidized one way or the other. We want farmers in this state to come out with proposals that can improve farm yields which can be imbedded in next year's budget."

The governor stated that agriculture remained the greatest employer of labour. He assured them of his administration's readiness to collaborate with any agro-based businessman who was determined to invest massively in any aspect of modern agricultural practices, while also promising to procure new tractors for mechanized farming.

"We are ready to support our farmers who are critical stakeholders in the task of improving the economy of our state. As the major employers of labour, we cannot but support you but it will be easier for us to interact with you, if you all cooperate with one another and come together as a team" , he said.

Chairman of the State Chapter of All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Pastor Akinola Olotu commended the governor for placing agriculture on his list of priorities, but hinted that the number of farmers in the field was not encouraging.

Olotu lauded government's achievement in making in Ondo state youth friendly, through the establishment of agricultural villages in different parts of the state. He urged the governor to build a farmers' market which in his opinion will facilitate a market development agency in the state.