

Ondo Agric Village debuts with 1,500 graduate resident farmers

Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko on Tuesday restated his administration's determination to tackle youth unemployment through modern agriculture. Governor Mimiko gave this assurance while inspecting facilities at the Caring Heart Agric Village at Ore in Odigbo local government area of the state.

Specifically, Mimiko who disclosed that two of such Agric Villages would soon take off in other parts of the State enjoined the 1500 graduate resident farmers who are the first batch of over 10,000 graduate farmers that would be accommodated in the first phase of the Agriculture Village to be focused and show seriousness to the task ahead of them.

He was emphatic in his assertion that the project would serve as a model and great innovation for Nigerians to accept agriculture as a profitable venture and veritable tool for reducing unemployment situation, noting that all necessary facilities including accommodation have been provided for the farmers.

"Everything you are seeing here today has been put in place in the last three months. I want to encourage all of you young graduate farmers that, this is about you, it is about the future of this state, it is about a task to be chosen by a nation if it wants to get out of the poverty. Through your activities here, I believe that Nigeria will come to learn that farming is a profitable venture and it is one avenue that we can explore to ensure that we defeat youth unemployment in Nigeria", Mimiko charged the youth farmers adding that :

"You are the first set of new generation farmers in our agric village and I'm sure you've gone round. We've made this agric village comfortable for you so that you can also concentrate on your job. All the crop farming activities here will be tractor -driven, your weed control will be chemically done, each of you will be empowered with facilities for crop farming, fish farming, poultry farming, mushroom farming and I'm sure five months down the line, you will be the envy of your colleagues because your income will be much more than what you will earn if you get government job.

"So I want to encourage you to put your heart into what you want to do here, like I said you are pioneers, we are building three other villages, two others like this in the first phase. The second one is going on in Epe, In Ondo East Local Government Area of the State while the third one is in Auga Akokoaxis. That will be for apart from fish farming, crop farming, there will be cattle ranching in Auga Akoko. We are still going to do a formal commissioning of this village when you are all settled in, because when I come to commission it, I want to see your farms, I want to see how you are doing with your farms, I want to be able to assess your income. I'm sure this is a solution to unemployment".

Earlier in his speech, the chairman of the State Wealth Creation Agency, Mr Bisi Adegoke disclosed that 47 hectares of maize have been harvested, 80 hectares of cassava planted and ready for allocation to participants while 15 kilometers of new internal farm roads have been constructed.

He added that government has constructed 300 fish ponds, planted 800,000 oil palm seedlings while 70 self contained housing units and poultry pens have been completed.

-- Kolawole Olabisi, Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Ondo State, Governor's Office. Akure, Ondo State