

ADDRESS OF THE HONOURABLE STATE COMMISSIONER
FOR AGRICULTURE, HON. 'TUNJI AKINOSI TO THE
VISITING DELEGATES OF THE GOVERNORS' FORUM TO
ERIWE FISH FARM ESTATE, IJEBU-ODE, OGUN STATE ON
WEDNESDAY, THE 10TH OF MARCH, 2010

INTRODUCTION:

Let me use this opportunity to welcome and thank you all for your dignified visit to this unique, fish farm estate developed through public-private participation in Ogun State. It is the first cooperator-based Fish Farm Estate involved in Poverty Alleviation in West Africa, according to the F.A.O.

LAND ACQUISITION:

The Eriwe Fish Farm Estate was first conceived as a project location in 1960 in the Old Western Region. Land acquisition processes were undertaken between 1962-1963 while the perimeter survey demarcations were completed between 1966-1967 for the 174.92 farmland. Today, only 155.90 hectares of the farmland is available for use after some partial loss to the expressway development.

FISH RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT:

By 1977, the Ogun State Government designated the Eriwe Fish Farm Estate farmland, as a Research, Training and Production Fish Farm Project and awarded a contract for a 100 hectare Reservoir

development to Messrs Lee Fakino (Nig.) Limited for ₦2,468,354.00.

This contract was eventually terminated in 1981.

By 2001, the Ijebu-Ode Development Board on Poverty Reduction (IDBPR), intent on utilizing some farmland for its cooperator fish farmer beneficiaries, requested for the first 50 hectares which the State Government granted under a leasehold arrangement by the 26th of September, 2001. Fish pond construction and production activities then resumed in 2002 with the active extension services support of the Ogun State Agricultural Development Programme (OGADEP), Ijebu-Ode zone. An additional 50 hectares requested was later approved by the Ogun State Government by the 5th of September, 2005. A final request for the balance of 55.6 hectares of the farmland recently requested is under consideration for approval.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTICIPATION INITIATIVES:

The Eriwe Fish Farm Estate is Ogun State's gift and model to other states nationwide and elsewhere around the world of a viable, sustainable, cooperator-based, poverty-reduction farm village manageable in our present context and suitable for large-scale, collective farmed fish production. It is the ideal model to which governments and other partners nationwide should encourage all

stakeholders to embrace especially through well-coordinated public-private participation. The Ogun State Government through its major agencies under the State Ministry of Agriculture has successfully assured support for this farm estate through land provision (from the State Ministry of Agriculture); Extension Services (through OGADEP); and Farm Facilities (through the FADAMA II project).

The Eriwe Fish Farm Estate produces and markets annually at least, 450 metric tons of fresh, farmed catfish or 8.6 metric tons per week with an annual sales value of ₦180,000,000.00.

The Ogun State Government is therefore proud to offer this model to all stakeholders nationwide and elsewhere globally as a basis for developing farm estates with robust private sector participation and for alleviating widespread and pervasive poverty in Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa.

The present administration in Ogun State under our amiable and forward-thinking Governor, Otunba Gbenga Daniel has this to offer as a model and challenge to all stakeholders to take up the gauntlet and build similar sustainable farm estates, as exemplified under its Agenda For a Secured Future. The Onus rests on everyone

present here today to accept this challenge and let this historic visit transform into multiple private-sector led farm estate development options nationwide.

Let me, on behalf of the Ogun State Government thank you all for coming while wishing you the best as you conceive and execute to fruition, your own private sector managed farm estate development initiatives.

Thank you and God bless.

*'Tunji Akinosi
Hon. State Commissioner for Agriculture*

Wednesday, 10th March, 2010

*Eriwe, Ijebu-Ode,
Ogun State.*