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nepad@uneca.org

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Chief of Section
Kwabia Boateng

Editor

Yinka Adeyemi

Production Assistant
Meseret Arega

Intern

Tapuwa Ruzvidzo

Leading investors show up at agribusiness Summit

LEADING international agribusiness investors and financing institutions with a combined investment capacity of more than US\$1 billion (R7.3bn) for agriculture investments in Africa, joined farmers and rural entrepreneurs for the Africa Investor Agribusiness Investment Summit in Durban.

The summit which ended today (September 1), is hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development, and will showcase African agribusiness investment opportunities to the international investment community.

Partners include the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation; NEPAD Business Group; Agrifca, Farm Africa; the African Business Roundtable and the UN Industrial Development Organisation.

The summit will profile agribusiness investment opportunities and discussions on how to attract private sector investment in Africa's agricultural sector.

Africa Investor vice-chairman Hubert Danso said the summit would provide insight into the future of agribusiness.

Source: Daily News (South Africa), August 30, 2010

NEPAD holds fair in Abuja

The maiden edition of NEPAD trade fair of indigenous products and services is set to take place in Abuja by October, the Special Assistant to the President on NEPAD has said.

Ambassador Tunji Olagunju said this yesterday in Abuja at an interactive session with Ambassadors/High Commissioners of African countries on the forthcoming trade fair.

He said that the trade fair, an initiative of the African Trade Centre in collaboration with NEPAD Nigeria, is to sensitize and mobilize the private sector to take proactive measures to stimulate intra African trade.

He said that the fair was aimed at encourag-

ing the collaboration and competition of products and services as well as deepening awareness of the needs, capabilities and potentials of Africa's trades and markets as pivotal ingredients in its development.

"We recognize the need for partnership between private and civil society sectors and between the grassroots as essential to stimulate proactive response to sustainable intra-African trade," he said.

The trade fair which is scheduled to run between October 23 to 31 will draw participants from all sectors of the African economy.

Source: The Daily Trust (Nigeria) – AAGM, August 27, 2010 Friday

EC-ACP reports on its programme on MEAs

The EC-ACP Capacity Building Project on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs Project) aims to strengthen and enhance the capacity of African ACP countries, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to effectively implement or coordinate implementation of MEAs, thereby contributing to sustainable development and poverty reduction in Africa.

Based on a capacity needs assessment conducted during the inception phase, needs were identified by African countries in the areas of: negotiations skills, development of legal instruments, compliance and enforcement, information exchange, mainstreaming of MEAs into development plans and policies, public awareness, regional and national institutional strengthening.

This year, as part of the implementation of its work plan the Project is implementing activities related to the enhancement of negotiation skills;

institutional strengthening; development of adequate regulatory and legislative frameworks at regional and national levels; establishment of information-exchange systems; and promotion of ratification and implementation of conventions, particularly African conventions.

In this regard, it is supporting the development and updating of bio-safety laws in Malawi; the updating of the draft East African Community Bill on trans-boundary ecosystems management with the view of enacting it into law; the development of practice manuals to guide the promotion of ratification and implementation of the Maputo Convention on the conservation of nature and natural resources and Nairobi Convention on land-based sources of pollution. In March, it co-funded with AMCEN in Nairobi the meetings of Experts on Climate Change and the outcome of this meeting fed into the Ministerial segment of the Committee of Heads of State and Governments on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), held in Addis Ababa in May. As a follow up to this support the MEAs Project plans to provide additional financial support to African scientists to provide technical and scientific back up to African negotiators for COP 16.

For more info: Fatoumata Jallow Ndoye, Project Coordinator

NdoyeF@africa-union.org/fnjallow@yahoo.com

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