

SOF ENTERPRISE, SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP PROJECT HELD AT AKINYELE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OYO STATE 11TH SEPTEMBER 2015

Mrs. Titilayo Adefioye Executive Director CEGWAD read the opening remark "our dear Prof, it is our pleasure to welcome you to our office in Ibadan, Oyo State. CEGWAD is a community based NGO established in 1999 with a focus of raising economic empowerment of women.

SEGWAD has over 550 women farmers spread across Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Ondo, and environs. CEGWAD cares also for widows, Orphans and the physically challenged humans. The health of CEGWAD women is important to the organization therefore, the women reproductive health has been a focus of our organization.

CEGWAD has so far diversified her programs in recent times to cultivation, processing, packaging and marketing.

Our valued Professor Sidi, you are highly welcome to CEGWAD and on-behalf of SEGWAD and on-behalf of the group leader present – WELCOME

Prof Sidi Osho appreciated the efforts of the Executive Director Mrs. Titilayo Adefioye Executive Director CEGWAD, she also appreciated everybody present. She went further to introduce SOF and various programs lined

up to help the situation of the Nigerian economy thereby initiating entrepreneurial programs such as Skill Acquisition and Development, Entrepreneurship Training, Business Developments and Leadership Training.

Prof. Sidi Osho stated that she has come to the realization that many groups over time will start up a group and make it effective but after a while will destabilize the group due to lack of trust and lack of commitment. She applauded CEGWAD for longevity. She said the main reason why SOF was created was to help Women, establish Enterprises, assist youths across the nation and establish agricultural integration to foster surplus in agric productions.

Since SOF was registered by CAC, SOF has started youth programs, entrepreneur programs, and empowerment programs, to mention few.

It should be noted that our primary objective for this meeting is to deliberate on how SOF can assist SEGWAD setting up integrated agriculture, assist youths and empower women.

Agriculture which has been the main focus of SEGWAD, and has also been identified to serve as the bedrock for the SOF/SEGWAD partnership.

SEGWAD will sign an MoU with SOF and it will serve as a proof of commitment and will enable

all individuals to have an identity card representing coalition of SEGWAD and SOF. Apart from this, individual members will join the SOF clubs with the sum of #2,000.

This partnership will concentrate and dwell on the food security club which entails:

- Production
- Processing
- Branding
- Marketing

Furthermore, the sum of #5,000 to open an account with NOUN microfinance bank; this will enable members to access a NOUN Microfinance Bank Loan

- Free training
- SOF will link you up with the Microfinance bank for access to loans
- Training for Twelve(12) weeks

You are required to get the land to build an agric integration farm that will bring together all aspects of farm production in just one environment. Spaces from this land will be apportioned to only registered members who have dully joined SOF club and have also registered with NOUN microfinance bank. Furthermore this farm integration will open different opportunities as well as different innovations such as exchanging goods for goods (trade by batter) this explains

that goods/product produced at the farm can be exchanged without the involvement of money.

Cassava can also be exchanged for garri; while yam can be exchanged for fish depending on the quantity. This farm land will also can also serve as a depot where people can come and buy raw materials in bulk, so it depends on each individuals area of interest.

SOF will take it upon itself to bring agencies that will help in turning this project to a community based integrated farm. Furthermore day care services would also be established in the farm to curb the fear/worries from nursing mothers. With the establishment of this institution mothers can be rest assured that their babies will get maximum care and protection because they will be very close to their babies.

This also will serve as an opportunity to people who are job hunting, old fathers who are idle can also serve as watch men to the farm and the gadgets in the farm.

What SOF and NOUN MFB is advocating is for the Nigerian youths, especially undergraduates to start learning one skill or the other while in school and even after school, to graduate without depending on government jobs after graduation..

Researchers have revealed that the reasons why the interest of learning skills have deteriorated in many Nigerian youths is because skills learned were not usually linked with access to finance. This is why SOF and NOUN came up with this program, to provide youths with skill acquisition trainings and also to provide means to finance any choice of skill interested in. NOUN microfinance bank has been mandated by the School to provide maximum and adequate financial support to already trained student/youth.

Conclusion

Mr Adegbite, the project manager buttressed and spoke more on the importance and benefits attached to joining SOF clubs and also the great benefit attached to opening an account with NOUN microfinance bank.

Finally, Mr Adegbite appreciated the organizer of the meeting and the individuals present, he specially appreciated Mrs Adefoye for a job well done and the wonderful hospitality provided for the guest, he then encouraged them to keep the fire burning.





Outcome

- 1) MoU
- 2) Establishment of an integrated farming centre
- 3) Job and Wealth Creation
- 4) Poverty Alleviation

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