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AGRA to honour farmer organisations in Africa

Wednesday 27th November, 2013

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Accra, Nov. 27, GNA - African Investment Climate Research (AFRICRES), in partnership with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is organising the 2013 Africa Farmer of the Year Award, programmed to take place in Accra.

The awards, scheduled for November 28, at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel aim at showcasing and rewarding successful farmer organisations in Africa.

Felix Deyegbe, Communications Specialist for AGRA Ghana said in a signed statement copied to the Ghana News Agency in Accra said the awards are to acknowledge the vital role that farmer organisations play in promoting sustainable agriculture in Africa.

This year's event will honour farmer organisations in five main categories; Governance, Accountability and Professional Capacity, Income Diversity, Female and Youth Participation, Advocacy and Market Access, he added.

Deyegbe explained that at the end of the event, an overall Africa Farmer Organisation of the Year would be crowned among the five sector winners, but the winners would each receive prizes for the various sectors.

As part of activities marking the awards, AFRICRES and AGRA are organising a conference on the theme: "Farmer Organizations in Africa: Strengthening Information-Sharing and Partnerships," November 27 at the Fiesta Royal Hotel in Accra.

The conference aims to bring together regional and national farmer organisations, representatives from African governments, farmer organisation support agencies and institutions, researchers, private sector institutions, and non-governmental organisations to discuss issues affecting farmer organisations in their efforts to ensure food security in Africa.

The farmer organization conference is also to give stakeholders the platform to discuss issues affecting smallholder farmers, focusing on key areas like getting better seeds to Africa farmers; improving soil health; providing better access to markets; building partnership to change policies and; strengthening farmer organisation capacities.

The statement quoted Professor Nicholas Biekpe, Managing Director of AFRICRES, as saying that farmer organisations continue to play a key role in achieving food security in Africa and therefore deserve recognition.

Ms Sylvia Mwachuli, AGRA's Director of Communications and Public Affairs, said the awards would motivate farmer organisations to continue to work towards achieving a green revolution in Africa.

She added that the commitment of key stakeholders in the agricultural value chain, including AGRA and AFRICRES, is required in promoting sustainable agriculture in Africa.

The awards will celebrate the farmer organisations for their role in eradicating poverty in the Africa through agriculture.

It is expected that the conference will help smallholder farmers gain profound knowledge on how to tackle some of the challenges they face and turn them into opportunities through sharing of practical experiences.

AFRICRES and AGRA believe the platform will also help in strengthening the partnerships among farmer organisations (FO), service providers, agricultural support institutions, governments and other FO-support agencies and institutions.

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