

Borno Assists Castor Farmers

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Castor(Agriculture)

Maiduguri, June 12, 2008 NAN...The Borno State Government has released the sum of N500,000.00 to the castor growers association of Nigeria in Borno state to purchase seedling with a view of boosting their activities across the state.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony which took place in his office today, the permanent secretary in the ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Alhaji Aliyu Chiroma pointed out that the amount was meant to encourage those engaged in castor growing to enhance the production of vegetable oil in the state.

He regretted that over years farmers had neglected the growing of castor plants which was a major source of vegetable oil in the past, adding that the ministry was now placing priority on reviving this plant along with others such as sunflower and soya beans, mainly grown in Southern Borno in order to increase family income.

The permanent secretary said that the government would continue to encourage any farmers association that undertakes agricultural activities which has a direct benefit to the entire farmers in the state and the nation as a whole.

Alhaji Aliyu called on other farmers associations to emulate the good example set up by the Castor Growers Association for their efforts in trying to resuscitate the hitherto declining planting of the castor oil plant.

He called on them to cooperate with the ministry's staff especially rural extension workers in their respective localities for the well-being of the farmers at the grassroots levels.

Responding the chairperson of the castor growers association who is also a National Executive member of the Apex Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) Hajiya Falmata Maani said that Apex Farmers Association is one of the largest in the country was determined to revive not only castor growing but also all other crops that were given lesser attention but capable of improving the family income.

The chairperson said that as the leaders of farmers Association they would continue to mobilize and educate their members on the importance of all agricultural policies and programme of the state government.

Hajiya Falmata Maani who is one the large scale farmers in Borno, appealed to farmers to engage in the introduction of castor in order to increase their cash crops production she expressed appreciation and thanked the state government for its encouragement. NAN/ASS