



2019 FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2019

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WHO WE ARE

Alliance for Science (AfS) Ghana is a network of farmers, scientists, communications persons, students and other well-meaning Ghanaians working to promote science and technology as the sure tool for poverty eradication.

A large chunk of our work focuses on undertaking outreaches in schools to sensitise students about the importance of science, and encourage them to pursue science-based professions.

We also work with farmers to enhance access to agricultural innovation as a means of ensuring food security, improving environmental sustainability, and raising the quality of life for farmers and dwellers in rural Ghana.



Our volunteers work to encourage the spread of technologies that can improve crops and livestock, thus reducing hunger and poverty. We believe every Ghanaian has the right to daily access of good and nutritious food; and we believe farmers should not raise their children in poverty because the farm doesn't yield enough. That is the motivation for which we do what we do as an organisation.

FIRST QUARTER 2019 ACTIVITIES

The first quarter of 2019 spanning January, February and March has been one very successful moment in our history. Below are the top 4 activities that engaged our attention;

1) **Alliance for Science Ghana** on Wednesday, 2nd January 2019 officially launched our **1193 FUNDING INITIATIVE** (pronounced as eleven ninety three funding initiative) that seeks to raise 1 million Ghana cedis (about \$210,000) in the year 2019 to fund our action plan over the next 3 years. Our efforts at ensuring farmers in the country get access to improved technology will not be successful without adequate funding for our town hall meetings, forums, panel discussions in schools, and other educational activities. We will be glad to kindly have you pledge and contribute to this noble course. No amount is too small. As a transparent not for profit organisation, we will acknowledge your contribution publicly if you don't mind. We will also keep our books opened for your scrutiny so you know your money was put to good use.



2) **Alliance for Science Ghana** on Saturday 2nd March, 2019 held a sensitisation programme at Bunso in the Eastern Region for farmers in the enclave on the basics of GMOs. It covered what exactly GMOs are, the process of developing GMOs and the potential benefits of its adoption for the Ghanaian economy. They were later given the opportunity to ask questions. Biosafety Officer at the Crop Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) led the sensitization programme.

Scientist Afriyie Debrah speaking to farmers



Section of farmers



Below is link to one of the media publications that emerged from the programme;
<https://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2019/March-8th/ghana-needsimprovedtechnologytofix-challenges-with-agricscientist.php>

3) **Alliance for Science Ghana** in March 2019 collaborated with the University of Ghana chapter of the International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences to hold a career session as part of their Greenweek celebration. Alliance for Science Ghana member Evans Okomeng and other team members participated in the educative session and encouraged young people to embrace agricultural technology.



4) **Alliance for Science Ghana** and the University of Cape Coast chapters of the International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences, as well as Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Students Association of Ghana organised the screening of science movie Food Evolution on campus in March 2019. Additionally, a panel discussion on the topic; “GMOs – Human Killer or Hunger Killer?” was held featuring lectures and our partners like the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) and the Programs for Biosafety System (PBS). The session sought to educate the students on emerging technologies driving agricultural production across the world that can be used to deal with challenges of food production. Below are links to some of the media publications that emerged from the event and pictures.

<https://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2019/March-21st/gmos-will-reduce-use-of-chemicals-on-farms-ucc-professor.php>

<http://www.ghananewsagency.org/science/gmos-foods-are-safe-to-consume-ofab-146862>



GOING FORWARD

Going into the second quarter of the year 2019, we look forward to rolling out a lot more educational activities to increase public knowledge on GMO technology. We also look forward to rolling out a lot more initiatives to facilitate the expected application for commercialisation of GMO cowpea in the country.

On Saturday 4th May, 2019, Alliance for Science Ghana will join the scientific community across the world to march for science <https://www.marchforscience.com/>. The Ghana March for Science event will bring together scientists and science loving people to walk across the streets of Accra to drum home the importance of science to national development. Looking forward to having you join us.

From Team Alliance for Science Ghana, we say thank you very much for taking time to read this. We appreciate it... You can log onto our website; www.allianceforscienceghana.org to find out more