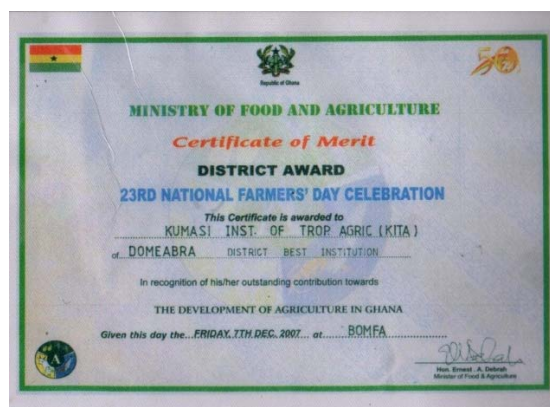


KITA AWARDED BEST INSTITUTION BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MOFA) IN THE
EJISU JUABEN DISTRICT AT THE 23RD FARMERS DAY CELEBRATION ON 7TH
DECEMBER 2007



Mr. Amofa(left), A graduate of KITA and a former District award winner presenting the certificate to Mr. Lovans Owusu-Takyi, Registrar and Programs Coordinator of KITA. The Dep District Director of MOFA Mr Alfred Nsiah behind the pulpit.

Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture, KITA, was awarded the '**Best Institution**' by the The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) at the 23rd Farmers Day celebration in the Ejisu Juaben District, held on the 7th of December 2007. This award was in recognition of KITA's immense contribution towards the development of agriculture in Ghana.

The District Director of Agriculture, Mrs Beatrice Mante said, KITA's contribution to the development of quality human resource for agriculture and its community extension programs to the rural farmers in the district is remarkable. KITA has been very instrumental in propelling the development of agriculture in the Ejisu Juaben District through its village development programs, agroforestry, environmental conservation, seeds and input support to the rural farmers, FBO's , the youth and women in the district. She was extremely happy about KITA's training in the MORE (Modular Organic Regenerative Environments) System and non-farm agro-enterprises such as mushrooms, snails, beekeeping, rural irrigation, rabbitry, grasscutters and its impact on the rural people in the district.

Receiving the award, Mr. Lovans Owusu-Takyi, the Registrar and Programs Coordinator, expressed KITA's appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture for the prestigious award given them. He added that the award is in the right direction. Since 1984 the institute has turned up over 10,000 Diploma graduates most of whom are gainfully employed. He added that a recent survey revealed that about 40% of award winner farms in Ghana have KITA graduates working as farm managers in the farm. He cited Kumah Farms Complex(2nd National Best farmer for 2004), Embik farms in Agona, DAK Farms(2nd National Best Farmer 2007), Asare Farms, Akate Farms (National Best Farmer 2007), Jei River Farms etc. He also added that because of the quality training given to the students, about 35 percent of the graduates have also won best farmer awards in various categories within the district, regional and national levels. Others have established viable non profits, like Permaculture Network, by Paul Yeboah in techiman, and are very immersed in farmer extension and community development activities. Some have also recieved scholarships to study abroad. KITA introduced training in the MORE system this January, and this contributed towards the winning of this award.

Mr. Lovans added that, the Institutes activities goes beyond the district level and in the coming years KITA is going to work more with its international partners, volunteer organisations and the government agencies to improve the lives of rural farmers in Ghana.

The Institute is taking great steps to improve the training of professional human resources to develop the agricultural sector in Ghana. A comprehensive strategic plan is being drawn to turn the Institute into a University College by 2009 to run degree programs and post graduate programs in Agriculture. Perpetual Prosperity Pumps Foundation is providing support for this endeavour.

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