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Home Grown School feeding contributing to Africa's GDP

Niamey, July 6, 2019 – The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD's commitment to Home Grown School Feeding programme goes back to 2003. At that time, African leaders, through the African Union and NEPAD agreed that the education, health and nutrition of young children and leaders of tomorrow had to be at the centre for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals - previously the Millennium Development Goals.



This image was taken in Ghana during a mission by AUDA-NEPAD on school feeding

The Home Grown School Feeding concept was then accepted as an initiative of AUDA-NEPAD and ingrained in its framework for Africa's Food Security under its objective on "increased economic opportunities for the vulnerable". Since then, there has been a growing awareness and commitment globally to invest in child health and nutrition beyond the 1000 days window. This where school feeding programmes come in to play a crucial part. Generally, school feeding programmes are framed as social protection or poverty reduction programmes with multiple objectives across education, school health and nutrition but more recently, school feeding is increasingly recognised as a means to support small holder farmers and overall community development.

It is against this backdrop that on the margins of the African Union 1st Mid-year Coordination Meeting in Niamey, Niger, the AUDA-NEPAD, in partnership with the Pan African Parliament and Niger's 3N Initiative '*Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens*' convened a side event titled "Embracing School Feeding for Multiple Wins in Education, Nutrition and Agriculture."

"Chronic malnutrition is on the rise and affects school children, which also impacts on their educational performance. Malnourished children are likely to enrol late, repeat grades and finish fewer years of schooling," H.E. Birgi Rafini, Prime Minister of Niger said.

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, AUDA-NEPAD CEO maintained that, "The time for action is now! Home Grown School Feeding programme offers a platform for coordinated action among partners committed to ending hunger and improving food security and nutrition in Africa. Investing in food and nutrition security is a fundamental factor to human capital development and contribute positively to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Moreover, benefits of the home grown school feeding approach far outweigh the costs."

The ardent need for action as made, seeing that each year an estimated 200 to 500 million school days are lost in low-income countries due to common health problems of school children, including worm infections, iron-deficiency anaemia and hunger. Moreover, poor nutrition and health among school children contributes to the inefficiency of the educational system in that children with diminished cognitive abilities, naturally perform less well, are more likely to repeat grades and to drop out of school.

Participants at the event made a strong case for home grown school feeding which included a technical panel discussion on mutual learning moderated by Mrs Estherine Fotabong, Director of Programmes at AUDA-NEPAD. "Home grown school feeding is different from traditional school feeding in that it is designed to provide children in schools with safe, diverse and nutritious food, sourced locally from small holders, meaning that farmers are beneficiaries of the programme alongside the school children," Mrs Fotabong said.

The event was also attended by H.E. Sacko Josefa Leonel Correra, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture; H.E Professor Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang Agbor, AU Commissioner Human Resources, Science and Technology; H.E. Roger Nkodo Dang, President of Pan Africa Parliament; Commissioner of 3N Initiative, Dr Ali Bety and WFP Country Representative in Niger, Dr Sory Ouane. Government officials from both on and off the continent also attended the event.

Agreement with to Manufacture LEAF-1404



L.E.A.F. Rwanda

Lifting and Empowering All Families®

Kigali, Rwanda and Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, July 11, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- L.E.A.F. Rwanda Ltd ("LEAF Rwanda") announced today that it has signed a manufacturing agreement with a US Contract Manufacturing Organization (CMO), through its United States (US) parent company, [L.E.A.F. Pharmaceuticals LLC](#), to manufacture its first complex generic anticancer medicine, LEAF-1404, under global current good manufacturing practices (cGMP).

The US based CMO, which has state of the art sterile manufacturing facilities, has previously undergone successful inspections by United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA). With deep experience in clinical and commercial manufacturing of drugs approved for marketing globally, the CMO will be responsible for both the clinical and large-scale commercial production of LEAF-1404 under conditions that are compliant with cGMP. LEAF Rwanda plans to market LEAF-1404 in Africa and Europe. LEAF Rwanda will use this opportunity to train, in the US, drug manufacturers from Rwanda and across Africa, in preparation for launching its cGMP compliant drug manufacturing plant, scheduled to be built in Kigali, Rwanda.

LEAF-1404 is a complex generic version of Caelyx®/Doxil®, a pegylated liposomal doxorubicin that has been available for over 20 years in the Western World for the treatment of ovarian cancer, breast cancer and Kaposi Sarcoma. There is currently no generic version of Caelyx®/Doxil® approved in Europe or Africa. Global cancer statistics indicate that 90% of Kaposi Sarcoma cases in the world occur in Africa. Yet, with such a high disease burden, Caelyx®/Doxil® has not been accessible to patients in Africa.

"The manufacturing of LEAF-1404 under cGMP will take us a step closer to bringing innovative, safe and affordable anti-cancer drug to patients with breast cancer, ovarian cancer and Kaposi Sarcoma. In particular, LEAF-1404 will address a key gap in the treatment of patients with Kaposi Sarcoma in Africa who have had very limited or no access to this medicine for more than 20 years now. While the disease is still taking lives in Africa, it has been virtually eliminated in Western countries", says Founder, President, and CEO of [L.E.A.F. Pharmaceuticals](#), [Dr. Clet Niyikiza](#).

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that 1 of every 10 medicines found in Africa is substandard or falsified (1). These poor-quality products result in 100,000 deaths annually in Africa according to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news service (2).

"The high death rate from substandard or falsified medicines is simply not acceptable. LEAF Rwanda is taking this initiative to help supply high quality medicines to help treat cancer on the African continent", says [Dr. Victor Moyo](#), Executive Vice President, Head of Research and Development and Chief Medical Officer of [L.E.A.F. Pharmaceuticals](#).

The agreement, now in place, ensures end-to-end, fully integrated services for formulation and fill-finish of drug products under cGMP standards.

"By manufacturing LEAF-1404 under cGMP by LEAF Rwanda and making it available from Rwanda for the African continent and beyond, we access an important and safe medicine to treat patients suffering from cancers of the breast, ovary and from Kaposi Sarcoma. We look forward to a partnership with LEAF Rwanda and L.E.A.F. Pharmaceuticals to make this drug available readily, safely and affordably for the first time, as we strengthen our healthcare systems in Rwanda and across Africa", says [Dr. Diane Gashumba](#), Minister of Health of the Republic of Rwanda.

Source: <https://www.prnewswire.com/il/news-releases/l-e-a-f-pharmaceuticals-llc-and-its-affiliate-l-e-a-f-rwanda-ltd-enter-into-an-agreement-with-a-contract-manufacturing-organization-to-manufacture-leaf-1404-801293642.html>

No real development in Africa without regional integration



By Angel Navuri, Member of the Agenda 2063 Media Network

Since 2005, The AUDA-NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF) has approved 76 grants for regional infrastructure projects, crowding in investment financing of over US\$ 8.7 billion, thereby directly impacting Africa's integration and development agenda.

Mr Symerre Grey-Johnson, AUDA-NEPAD's Head for Infrastructure, Regional Integration and Trade, made the statement during the African Development Bank Annual Meeting under the theme *Regional integration* that were held recently in Equatorial Guinea.

According to Grey-Johnson, NEPAD-IPPF was specifically instituted to address the lack of investment-ready infrastructure projects, one of the key constraints to economic development in Africa.

He mentioned the key achievements which include North Core (Nigeria-Niger-Benin-Burkina Faso) 330KV Transmission Project, Multinational Burundi-Rwanda, Benin - Togo- Ghana Electricity Interconnection Project, Kenya-Uganda Oil Pipeline Project, (and Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya Power Interconnection Project.

Others are East African Submarine Cable (EASSy) Project, OMVG Electricity Project, ItheziThezi and Kariba North Bank (SAPP) securing financing through a PPP, Ghana-Burkina power interconnection project.

He further said that Africa's integration is no longer a matter of choice. Against an international backdrop of changing political and economic priorities, Africa must plot a new course for its industrialisation and economic development, using the momentum of regional integration.

According to him for Africa, a vast continent of over 1.2 billion people, integration has considerable potential not only for promoting robust and equitable economic growth through markets, but also for reducing conflict and enhancing trade liberalisation. Moreover, Africa has a combined GDP of more than \$3.4 trillion. Such a market could create huge opportunities for producers on the continent.

But to make it a reality, African governments and regional economic communities should intensify efforts aimed at facilitating the free movement of goods, services, people and trade across borders.

According to various reports, regional integration is often seen as less relevant for resource-rich countries, since demand for commodities typically comes from the global market rather than from regional demand.

Regional integration in Africa, however, can play a vital role in diversifying economies away from dependence on the export of just a few mineral products; in delivering food and energy security; in generating jobs for the increasing number of young people; and in alleviating poverty and delivering shared prosperity.

Therefore to accelerate the integration, the priority of economic integration must be balanced by those of social, cultural and political integration. Policy instruments, especially for overlapping REC member nations, need to be harmonised. Currently, weak enforcement of existing treaties and non-tariff barriers continue to hinder free movement of goods, services and persons across borders.

Leadership Skills for Implementation of STEM Education in Africa



Johannesburg – STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. AUDA-NEPAD has developed the STEM Education project in order to address the lack of STEM responsiveness in education policy, curriculum, teaching methodology as well as limited capacity and skills among teachers who are important influencers in education. The project provides capacity strengthening for the following key populations: pre-service teacher trainees and in-service teachers; policy and decision-makers in Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, education practitioners and other relevant stakeholders in the education sector.

The Project primarily focuses on Colleges of Education and Education Departments of Universities (Pre-service and in-service teachers) as agreed on by participating countries during consultative meetings conducted between January and June 2019. The STEM Education Project is supported in beneficiary countries by Focal Points and Resources Persons. A workshop was therefore organised from 24-27 June, 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa to strengthen the capacity of the Focal Points and Resource persons in STEM in performing their roles more efficiently and effectively.

Head of AUDA-NEPAD's NSTIH, Professor Aggrey Ambali, appreciated and commended the work done by the STEM Education Project led by Dr Justina Dugbazah. He spoke on the three strategies for STEM on the continent: Agenda-2063, CESA and STISA 2024 – emphasising the AU and AUDA-NEPAD's drive for Science and Technology on the continent. "We need to build a culture of science in Africa. We must identify what the enablers of STEM and STI are, and to promote these on the continent. These interventions will result in increasing the human capacity and STEM responsive education policies in Africa, and increase job opportunities for youth in STEM-related professions".

Dr Justina Dugbazah, Senior Programme Officer and Coordinator of the STEM Education Project dwelt on the meeting being a consultative process where participants were to learn from each other best practices and lessons that will support project implementation in their respective countries. She asserted that the aim of the workshop is to enhance technical and professional competencies, as well as pedagogy and project management skills of focal points and resource persons. It also seeks to encourage collaboration between Member States in the area of STEM and STI education as well as provide the needed human capital mass for STEM education.

The meeting involved the five participating countries: Gabon, Nigeria, Malawi, Ghana and Ethiopia. They presented on the anticipated benefit from the AUDA-NEPAD Project intervention; the status of project implementation; plans or way forward for the rest of the year. At the end of the workshop, participants expressed gratitude to AUDA-NEPAD for the STEM programmes in their respective countries.

The Malawi team led by Prof Leonard Kamwanja had the following to say, "The country is currently reviewing its curriculum and this project is timely as it would further sharpen target areas in STEM education in the review process. This programme also supports the building of a science culture for Malawian youth." Mrs Constance Twumasi led the team from Ghana, and said that, "The Ghana team has a renewed passion for the project based on their experiences at the workshop. We have been encouraged to work on implementing the objectives of the STEM project in Ghana. The recent commitment by our Government of over 80 million dollars to STEM infrastructure is an indication of government interest in STEM education and this project is timely."

The Nigerian team with Dr Adamu Jatau Noma as spokesperson, indicated that STEM education, particularly in gender equality is very important to Nigeria. "This program supports the government's initiative for equal access to STEM education and builds the necessary capacity for encouraging young people, particularly girls, to address Nigeria's challenges in the capacity of science and technology teachers." The team from Gabon acknowledged that, "The project is very relevant in addressing the gaps in STEM education teacher competencies in our country. Even though the team is new on the project, this workshop has been a valuable experience." "In Ethiopia, the Minister of Education is very much enthused about this project and extends an invitation to the AUDA-NEPAD team to visit and hold deliberations on STEM education in Ethiopia. This programme is in line with the Ministry's current strategy on STI," remarked Dr Solomon Benor.

Building a Sustainable Path towards Good Land Governance Systems



Across Africa, the majority of the population relies on land and land-based resources for their social, cultural and economic welfare. Land as a productive resource holds huge potential for propelling Africa to achieving three of the seven Malabo Declaration commitments and their associated targets, as well as aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063 which envisions “A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development”. One of the enabling factors to achieve this ambition is ensuring that the continent has good land administration and governance system.

The AUDA-NEPAD Land Governance Program (LGP) assists the member states to build or strengthen existing capacities in designing and mainstreaming land governance into their country strategic and/or development plans. This week [AUDA-NEPAD](#) in partnership with 10 LGP participating countries: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Namibia, Benin, Mali and Uganda, and three specialized technical institutions: [Regional Centre for Mapping Resources for Development \(RCMRD\)](#), [Africa Economic Research Consortium \(AERC\)](#) and [Centre de Suivi Ecologique \(CSE\)](#) hosted a four-day project kick-off meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

The meeting sought to gather input on country needs and possible areas of capacity strengthening in terms of setting up good land governance systems, rationalise country work plans, develop a roadmap for country implementation, and agree on project management mechanism and communication strategy for all countries and partners.

“The ever-increasing demand for land, competition amongst the different uses of land, tenure insecurity, conflicts and weak land governance systems threatens the livelihoods of; particularly, vulnerable groups of women, youth, rural communities, minority groups.” said Dr Hamady Diop, Head of Natural Resource and Governance at AUDA-NEPAD during his opening remarks noting the increased momentum on the LGP agenda and the momentum towards building synergies.

The Land Governance Program (LGP) recognises that effective land governance systems should be informed by relevant and actionable evidence about the land, to achieve desired outcomes and impacts at both national and continental levels.

“Land as a productive resource holds huge potential for propelling Africa to achieving the Sustainable development Goals, the Africa Agenda 2063 goals as well as Malabo commitments and targets. However, for this to happen, land must be well governed,” added Dr Diop.

“The importance of good land governance systems for Africa’s socio-economic transformation cannot be overstated. Better coordination of efforts will help the continent to respond better to Africa’s sustainable development agenda as enshrined in both the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and Africa’s Agenda 2063,” said Rudo Makunike, AUDA-NEPAD LGP Project Manager.

The AUDA-NEPAD LGP will strengthen capacities of African countries and regional institutions for better land governance through provision of tools and evidence as well as trainings at both country and regional levels. At the end of the four-day meetings, there will be coherence and understanding amongst the countries, the AUDA-NEPAD, and regional technical institutions on the different roles and responsibilities for successful implementation of the project as well as the country priorities for specific intervention.

The key that unlocks is also the key that locks - African Proverb

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