

DELPHÉ 326 ESSAY COMPETITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN NIGERIA

BACKGROUND: Climate change now presents the most serious environmental challenge to mankind in the 21st century manifesting in extremes of events such as flooding, drought, heat waves, and changes in rainfall intensity and pattern, sea level rise, drying up of rivers/streams among others. Unfortunately, agriculture, which contributes significantly to the gross domestic product (GDP) of many developing economies including Nigeria, receives the major share of the catastrophic consequences of climate change because of lack of resilience to manage climate change risks. Besides, almost all sectors in agriculture (crop, livestock, pastoralism, fishery, etc) depend on weather and climate whose variability have meant that rural farmers who implement their regular annual farm business plans risks total failure due to climate change effects. The vulnerability of the developing countries like Nigeria is worsened by heavy reliance on renewable natural resources for livelihoods, employment and incomes. Most Pan-African consultations show that the most affected groups are farmers, pastoralists, foresters, fisher folks, and hunters. In 2005, nearly half of the economically active population in developing countries—2.5 billion people—relied on agriculture for its livelihood. Today, 75 percent of the world’s poor live in rural areas. It is therefore less difficult to believe that agricultural productivity will be very low with increasing incidences of these climate change effects. Consequently, the low yield will change the supply and demand pattern, and thus the commodity prices, the profitability of farming, and the affordability of food, food security, and human health.

The implication of this scenario for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is obvious, especially in developing countries where systems resilience is low. The need for development interventions that will jointly boost the resilience capacities of vulnerable people at local, regional and international levels to climate change is very timely. The Development Partnership in Higher Education (DeLPHE) is one of such interventions. In its Round Three call in 2007 a cream of professionals from the South (Nigeria) and the North (United Kingdom) in relevant fields proposed to address the MDG number One that aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger under the prevailing environment by developing a framework for agricultural adaptation to climate change in Southern Nigeria. This gave birth to DeLPHE Project 326.

In furtherance of the Project’s aims to create awareness and support efforts towards climate change research and capacity building, we are issuing a [Call for an Essay Competition among postgraduate students in Nigerian universities](#) as follows:

THEME: “Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture in Nigeria: Challenges and Opportunities”

ELIGIBILITY: All Postgraduate students in Nigerian Universities

MODE OF APPLICATION:

- You are to submit an article of about 5000 words (not exceeding 20 pages) based on the theme. The article should be double spaced, 12 font size, Times New Roman and should be sent to: **Michael** at madukwe@hotmail.com and copied to **Gloria** at glo4sunny@yahoo.com **NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY, 21 APRIL 2011**. Any application received after this date will not be considered.
- You are also required to support your application with an **Institutional Support Letter** from your Head of Department confirming that you are a registered student of a Nigerian university.

PRIZES: All articles received will be reviewed by a team of international experts and the best three articles will be selected for awards as follows:

1ST PRIZE = Research support of up to Fifty thousand naira only

2ND PRIZE = Research support of up to Thirty thousand naira only

3RD PRIZE = Research support of up to Twenty thousand naira only

CONSOLATION PRIZE: All the articles submitted and reviewed stand a chance of being published in a book volume if the article meets publication standards under DelPHE 326 project.

Applicants will be notified of the result of the competition by **May 20 2011**, while the prizes will be awarded to winners during the project's Culmination Workshop in August 2011.

For more information about DelPHE 326 Project, please visit our website at:
www.delphe326nigeria.org