

**REPORT OF THE WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
17th -20th JUNE 2017 TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN IN
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT) NIGERIA**

Theme “Our Land,Our Home,Our Future”

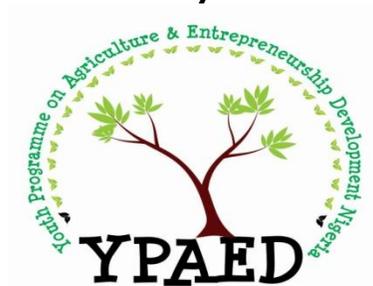
*A Process of Youth Mobilization and Engagement in Combating Desertification
and Draught through Tree Planting Campaign*

Submitted To



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

By



**YOUTH PROGRAMME ON AGRICULTURE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
DEVELOPMENT (YPAED) IN NIGERIA IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE BLUEBERRY GROUP WITH SUPPORT FROM OXFAM**

22nd JUNE 2017

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1. Background

The **World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD)** is observed every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The day is a unique moment to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality (LDN) is achievable through problem solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels.

To promote public awareness of land degradation and to draw attention to the implementation of the UNCCD in Nigeria, the Youth Programme on Agriculture and Entrepreneurship Development (YPAED) in collaboration with Major Garden Sokale, Duste Alhaji, Government Day Secondary School (GDSS) Bwari Area Council, Federal Capital Territory, Blue Berry Organix Farm and ARATIBIOTECH LTD organize Tree Planting and sensitization in school and communities in Bwari Area Council in FCT on the World Day To Combat Desertification 2017 events and the importance of Tree Planting in achieving LDN

World Day to Combat Desertification is celebrated every year on 17th June , to focus on the issues of desertification and draught global misery of hunger and poverty.

It is time to rethink how we manage our land and future.

If done right, our land can support sustainable agriculture, forestry to provide nutritious food for all and generate decent incomes, while supporting people-centered rural development and protecting the environment.

Right now, our soils, freshwater, oceans, forests and biodiversity are being rapidly degraded. Climate change is putting even more pressure on the resources we depend on, increasing risks associated with disasters such as droughts and floods. Many rural young women and men can no longer make ends meet on their land, forcing them to migrate to cities in search of opportunities.

1.1. WORLD DAY TO COBAT DESERTIFICATION THEME

'OUR LAND,OUR HOME,OUR FUTURE.'

One of the biggest issues related to climate change is food security. The worlds poorest - many of whom are farmers, fishers and pastoralists - are being the hardest hit by higher temperatures and an increasing frequency in weather-related disasters.

At the same time, global youth unemployment and population are growing steadily and are expected to double by 2050. To meet such a heavy demand for food and address the issues of unemployment and achieving sustainable, development goal and 2 (End Hunger, Food Security, and achieving Sustainable Agriculture), food systems will need to adapt to the adverse effects of desertification and become more resilient, productive and sustainable. This is the only way that we can ensure the wellbeing of ecosystems and rural populations and reduce desertification and draught as well as address youth unemployment and underemployment.

Growing food in a sustainable way means adopting practices that produce more with less in the same area of land and use natural resources wisely. It also means reducing food losses before the final product or retail stage through a number of initiatives including Agriculture Mechanization, better harvesting, storage, packing, transport, infrastructure, market mechanisms, as well as institutional and legal frameworks.

This is why our global message for World Day To Combat Desrtification2017 is ***"OUR LAND,OUR HOME,OUR FUTURE."***

2. About The World Day To Combat Desertification (WDCD) Tree Planting Campaign 2017

The concept in essence seeks to employ Tree Planting and sensitization as a mobilization and youth engagement strategy in raising awareness about the importance of Tree Planting in Combating Desertification and Draught as well raising awareness about the theme of the world Day to Combat Desertification.

Youth engagement is crucial to the sustainable development goals simply because the youth are the future, so tree planting must be adopted in engaging and capturing their imagination. A large majority of our target demographic are really not interested in the usual avenues and methods the government, and its agencies, deploy to create awareness on these kind of issues such as symposiums, workshops etc. Anytime spent away from their studies is usually directed toward other stuff like entertainment, sports, the social media etc. so they have to be met and engaged on their own turf. Tree Planting was identified as such a vehicle because of its huge popularity amongst the young and old in general and the youth in particular.

It was decided that a tree planting in school and community would have the right kind of appeal to the youth. Major Garden Sokale and Government Day Secondary School ,(GDSS)Duste Alhaji in Bwari Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory where identified for participation in the 2017 WDCD community outreach and engagement it was a success that can and should be improved upon

Program of Events
Day One 17th June 2017

s/no.	Time	Activity
1.	9.00pm	Arrival of YPAED teams .
2.	9.00am- 11.15am	Tree Planting by YPAED Members
	12:00pm	Group Picture/Unveiling of WDCD Banner

3.

4.

Program of Events
Day Two 20th June 2017

Venue :Government Day Secondary School ,(GDSS) Dustre Alhaji,Bwari Area Council FCT

s/no.	Time	Activity
1.	9.00pm	Arrival of YPAED teams .
2	10:00am- 10:20am	Welcome Address by Principal GDSS,Duste Alhaji

3	10:20- 10:40	Brief about the World Day To Combat Desertification 2017
2.	9.00am- 11.15am	Tree Planting by YPAED Members
	12:00pm	Group Pictures

5. Methodology and Activities

The methodology applied in mobilizing the grassroots for the world food day 2016 involves several means of reaching citizens at specific locations across FCT. Specifically, YPAED and its partner The Blueberry Group undertook the following tasks to reach our goal:

- Letters to Schools, and Federal Ministry of Environment for collaboration to commemorate WDCD 2017
- Distribution of IEC Materials from Plant For the Planet
- Organization of Tree Planting Campaign.
- Establishment of Orchard in GDSS .

The Tree Planting activities of YPAED and partners ,Blueberry Group ARATI BIOTECH LTD was carried out in SMajor Garden in Sokale and Government Day Secondary School (GDSS), Duste Alhaji, Bwari Area Council and its environs in Abuja FCT in Nigeria between 17th - 20th June as part of activities commemorating World Day to Combat Desertification , 2017

5.1. Lessons Learnt

In the course of the tree planting , sensitization and mobilization, some lessons learnt are highlighted below:

- I. The activities exposed young people to the world Day to Combat Desertification , some for the first time and built a stronger commitment to embark on Tree planting and sustainable land management
- II. Members of the communities targeted were adequately sensitized on the world day to combat desertification day 2017 theme and indicated interest to be part of the YPAED and partners in Nigeria programs to empower young people through agriculture.

- III. Tree Planting has a high potential to reach the younger citizens with information and education on agriculture to embrace agriculture as a tool for poverty eradication and job creation.
- IV. Leaders of the targeted communities also called on parents and policy makers to support and invest in youth and agriculture as it is not the sole responsibility of the government, parents and community leaders could also support.

5.2. Challenges

Several challenges were encountered that could be militated against in future world day to combat desertification celebrations to achieve better results. Some of these challenges include:

- I. Inadequate materials for publicity for the WDCD 2017.
- II. Recession in Nigeria
- III. Security threats in the country led to denial of mobilization activities in some locations.
- IV. Inadequate resources for the mobilization of young people to commemorate the WDCD 2017 on a broader level.
- V. Inability of some volunteers to pay transportation to the series of activities of the WDCD 2017.

5.3. Recommendation for Future Similar Activities

As a result of the various challenges encountered in organizing the WDCD 2017 and the grassroots mobilization, there were some factors that could have been adequately militated against to ensure higher success rates in future engagements with this and other national events/campaigns. These recommendations include:

1. Adequate publicity materials should be made available for the WDCD celebration to adequately sensitize the youth.
2. Meaningful youth participation and engagement in planning and implementation of WDCD 2017 event at the grass roots, state and national levels.

3. In school debates etc. should be part of the activities of the WDCD Celebration.
4. Timely planning and release of funds should be considered for similar activities in future.
5. Honorarium and transportation for volunteers as most volunteers are unemployed youths.
6. Adequate lead time for proper orientation of youth should be considered, as some youth were not well informed about the WDCD.
7. Timing of planning of future events should make room for delays which will require early start especially if a terminal date is imminent.

Annexes

Annex	Description	Remarks
1.	Welcome Address	
2.	Keynote Address	Refer to Annex
3.	1 st Goodwill Address	Refer to Annex
4.	2 nd Goodwill Address	Refer to Annex
5.	Picture Gallery	Refer to Annex
6.		



