

ASSOCIATION OF ESAN PROFESSIONALS

REPORT ON

**13TH ESAN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP
(EEEW), 2017**

THEME: MODERNIZING AGRIBUSINESS IN ESANLAND FOR
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

VENUE: BUVEL PLAZA, AGBA ROAD, BESIDE ESAN NORTH-
EAST LOCAL GOVT. COUNCIL SECRETARIAT, UROMI, EDO STATE

1.0 13TH EEEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Prof. Michael Ikhariale	Chairman
2. Prince Matthew Ahianba	Vice Chairman
3. Dr. Celey Okogun	Member
4. Ms. Semuan Ighodalo	“
5. Mrs. Roseline Ose Adinoyi	“
6. Mr. Patrick Ube	“
7. Mr. Frans Ojielu	“
8. Mr. Edward Okoruwa	“
9. Mr. Emmanuel Akhigbe	“
10. Mr. Stanley Negbenebor	“
11. Emmanuel Okogun	Programme Director

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The 13th Esan Economic Empowerment Workshop (EEEW) held as scheduled on Friday, October 13, and Saturday, October 14, 2017 in BUVEL Plaza, Agba Road, beside Esan North-East Local Govt. Council Secretariat, Uromi as follows:

Day 1 Morning: Friday, October 13, 2017 – Grand Final: Esan Language Quiz Competition

Venue: BUVEL Plaza, Agba Road, beside Esan North-East Local Govt. Council Secretariat, Uromi.

- Finals of Esan Language Quiz Competition by the 5 LGAs in Esanland

Day 1 Afternoon: Friday, October 13, 2017 – Farmers’ Workshop

Venue: BUVEL Plaza, Agba Road, beside Esan North-East Local Govt. Council Secretariat, Uromi.

- Arrival and Registration of participants
- Introduction & National Anthem,
- Opening Prayers & breaking of Kola nut
- Welcome Address by Prof. Michael Ikhariale, Chairman of the 13th EEEW Committee
- Lecture I – Start-up Crop Cultivation Venture and agroecosystems in Esanland by Prof. C. O. Omoifo of the Department of Crop Science, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma.
- Lecture II – Accessing Funds for Agribusiness by Mr. Frans Ojielu who represented Mr. Mike Osime
- Lecture III – Sources of financing Agriculture by Mr. Charles Omenai who represented Engr. Charles Osezua
- Audience participation
- Chairman’s comments on the presentations

Day 2: Saturday, October 14, 2017 – All Stakeholders’ Session

Venue: BUVEL Plaza, Agba Road, beside Esan North-East Local Govt. Council Secretariat, Uromi.

- Arrival & Registration of participants
- Introduction & National Anthem
- Prayers & Breaking of kola nut
- Welcome Address by Barr. Matthew Egbadon, President, AEP
- Opening Remarks of the Chairman of 13TH EEEW, by Prof. (Mrs.) Bridget Inegbeboh who stood-in for Prof. Julius Okojie, OON, Former Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC)
- Paper – The Edo State Agricultural Road Map and Soil Mapping for Esanland by the Edo State Commissioner for Agriculture, Hon. Monday Osaigbovo
- Discussion on the salient issues arising from the paper presented.
- Keynote Address by Dr. Omoregbe W.O who represented the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh
- Cultural dance performance by Ikhinabojie
- Remarks by the Special Guest of Honour, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, Executive Governor, Edo State
- Audience Feedback
- Award to deserving Esan sons and daughters who have excelled in Agriculture over the years
 - Mr. Joseph Abhulimhen
 - Prince Cyprian Imobhio
 - Chief FM Emeya
- Presentation of Prizes/Certificates to Esan Language Quiz Winners/All participating schools
- Vote of Thanks by Prince Matthew Ahianba, Vice Chairman, 13th EEEW committee

Beyond empowering Esan people, the 2017 workshop being the twelfth (13th) in the series was unique in many ways because it brought the various governments (Local, State and Federal) policies on agriculture closer to the grass roots, it drew attention to the challenges facing Esan farmers in Agriculture as well as explores modern ways of Agribusiness in Esanland. For the first time, the EEEW was given a Federal stance with the Keynote Address by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh who was ably represented by the State Director of the Ministry (FMARD), Dr. Omoregbe W.O

In spite of the few hitches in the 13th EEEW, it was properly adjudged to be successful.

3.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The following terms of reference empowered and guided the Committee:

- a. To suggest a theme for the 13th EEEW
- b. To organise a workshop based on the approved theme ie Modernizing Agribusiness in Esanland for Economic Empowerment
- c. To organise the workshop in a specified L.G.A. ie Esan North East L.G.A.

4.0 MARKETING/PUBLICITY

The committee adopted a marketing strategy that was deemed to be adequate to enhance attendance. The strategy namely:

- A) Invitation letters/cards to prominent Esan sons and daughters
- B) Advertisement in national dailies – Vanguard full page Ad (*Please see attached*)
- C) Radio Jingle on ITV Radio
- D) Television Programme on AIT Benin - Esanokpebholo
- E) Personal contacts
- F) Solicitation emails
- G) Television and Radio Coverage – ITV and Radio, NTA Irukekpen
- H) Print Media Coverage – Vanguard and Observer
- I) Banners - (two banners in each of the five Esan LGAs) prior to the event, one banner at Uromi Palace junction and one Venue banner.

5.0 POST EVENT PUBLICITY

The 13th EEEW event was published in the following mass media;

- a) NTA Irukekpen News
- b) ITV Benin News
- c) Vanguard
- d) Observer
- e) www.esanprofessionals.org
- f) Esan Magazine
- g) Several online sites

6.0 EVENT ORGANISATION

The event was well- organised and well attended. Everything went as planned from the quiz competition to the workshop. The theme of the workshop caught a great attention.

Day 1 - Quiz Competition

In line with the Association’s commitment to constantly raise concerns on the decline in spoken Esan language among our sons and daughters of all ages, especially the younger generation, an inter-secondary school Quiz Competition on Esan Language (general test of Esan Language, Names, Sentences, Ceremonies, Idoms etc) was organised among schools in the Five L.G.As of Esanland. To underscore the seriousness of the exercise, a Quiz Committee was set up comprising of Mr. Patrick Ube, the founder and presenter of “Esanokpebholo”, Prof. (Mrs.) Bridget Inegbeboh, the Director, Centre for Research and Development of Esanland, Samuel

Adegboyega University, Ogwa, Hon. Alfred Okpere, Author and an Esan Language Instructor and Mr. Emmanuel Okogun, the Programme Director, Association of Esan Professionals. The Committee liaised with the Ministry of Education in the five Esan L.G.As from time to time. Letters were sent to the Chief Inspectors of Education (CIEs) in the Five L.G.As and personal contact to solicit their ministry's supervision, support and physical presence in the whole process to standardize the exercise and ensure a successful competition.

A total of Forty-six (46) public and private secondary schools participated in the quiz competition (*Please see attached list of schools*)

The grand finale of the quiz competition took place on Friday, October 13, 2017 at BUVEL Plaza, Uromi which was scheduled to start at 9:00am but started at about 2:00 pm.

The following was the schedule for the competition at the Local Government Level:

1. **Tuesday, October 3, 2017;** Esan Central L.G.A at Annunciation Catholic College (A.C.C.), Irrua
2. **Wednesday, October 4, 2017;** Esan North East L.G.A at Esan Model Secondary School, Uromi (but was held on Thursday, October 26, 2016)
3. **Tuesday, October 10, 2017;** Esan South East L.G.A at St. John Bosco's Secondary School, Ubiaja
4. **Wednesday, October 11, 2017;** Esan West L.G.A at Ujuelen Grammar School, Ekpoma and Igueben L.G.A at Igueben Grammar School, Igueben

The three grand finale winning schools were given prize money while the other participating schools received certificate of participation each.

The winning schools were as follows:

1st Position – Okhuesan Secondary School, Okhuesan (Esan South East L.G.A) received ₦100,000

2nd Position – Shiloh Hill College, Igueben (Igueben L.G.A) received ₦75,000

3rd Position – Ewu Grammar School, Ewu (Esan Central L.G.A) received ₦50,000

4th and 5th Positions - Palm International College, Iruekpen (Esan West L.G.A) and Ebhoiyi Secondary School (Esan North East L.G.A) respectively got consolation prizes of ₦20,000 each

It was observed that out of a total of about 140 schools in Esanland only 46 schools participated in the competition.

Day 1- Famers' Workshop

A total of thirty-six (36) farmers' cooperative societies and trade Associations were represented at this session. *(Please see attached list of cooperative societies)*

Three papers were presented and they were well received.

Prof. Charles O. Omiofo of the Department of Crop Science, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma delivered the first paper titled "Start-up Crop Cultivation Venture and agroecosystems in Esanland". This was followed by Mr. Frans Ojielu's Presentation titled "Accessing Funds for Agribusiness" on behalf of Mr. Mike Osime. Mr. Charles Omenai continued his presentation on "Sources of funds for Agribusiness" on behalf of Engr. Charles Osezua.

About one hundred and sixty-six (166) guests were in attendance.

Day 2 – All stake holders workshop

Approximately 350 participants from all works of life were in attendance.

The workshop started as scheduled in a well decorated hall with a good Public Address System.

The high point of the day was the Presence of the Edo state Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki and his remarks as the special guest of honour at the occasion.

The Executive Governor of Edo State, Mr. Godwin Obaseki was impressed by the workshop that he donated the sum of N500,000 to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd position winners of the competition as follows: 1st & 2nd Position (N200,000 each) and 3rd position (N100,000).

AEP President, Barr. Matthew Egbadon delivered a resounding welcome address while the opening remarks was delivered by Prof. Bridget Inegbeboh on behalf of the Chairman of the occasion, Prof. Julius Okojie, OON.

The key note address by the representative of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and that of the Edo State Honourable Commissioner of Agriculture were well received and duly discussed.

The event was well covered by cameramen and the press with a TV and Radio coverage from NTA Irukekpen and ITV Benin.

Buvel Plaza (event hall and accommodation) provided a very serene ambience for the workshop.

Later in the evening, AEP members in attendance and selected dignitaries had a sumptuous Presidential dinner at the same venue.

A communiqué was drawn up at the end of the two days workshop. *(Please see attached communiqué)*

7.0 AWARD

At the all stake holders' event, the deserving Esan Professionals awardees, Mr. Joseph Abhulimhen, Prince Cyprian Imobhio, Chief FM Emeya received the usual AEP commendation plaque in line with the tradition of the Association. The 13th EEEW award was to deserving Esan sons and daughters who have excelled in Agriculture over the years across.

8.0 DRAW BACKS

1. There was a late budget approval resulting in last minute rush to meet deadline on some items
2. Some members of the committee did not participate actively at the planning stage.
3. The grand finale of the Esan quiz competition commenced behind schedule
4. Absence of presentation materials for the resource persons e.g. Projector
5. Some inadequacies in the hotel accommodation provided for members and guest.
6. The questions for the Esan language quiz competition were not properly standardized.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The planning for EEEW in future should commence a minimum of 5 months between the planning and execution as to enable the Programme Director to visit Esanland at least five times for sufficient mobilization/sensitization towards the workshop
2. In future, the Association should make an attempt to select members who will willingly participate in the planning committee
3. The planning committee should provide standard presentation facilities and inform presenters accordingly.
4. A standard curriculum should be designed for the Esan Language quiz competition
5. Where the Association is providing accommodation for members at the EEEW, the facilities of the accommodation should be pre- inspected to ensure they are suitable for members.
6. AEP members should in future show more enthusiasm in the workshop.
7. To avoid the stress of the back to back hosting of the EEEW, that the EEEW should be organized in alternate year.
8. That the assignments of the EEEW committee should be given to those who are available.

12.0 CONCLUSION

The 13th Esan Economic Empowerment Workshop (EEEW) was adjudged to be successful. The 13th EEEW committee thanks the President, Exco and members of AEP for their cooperation and support towards the success of the 2017 Esan Economic Empowerment Workshop.

Signed:

Prof. Michael Ikhariale
Chairman, 13th EEEW 2017

APPRECIATION

The 13th EEEW committee wishes to thank the following individuals for their invaluable contributions to the success of the event:

1. Mr. Godwin Obaseki, The Executive Governor, Edo State
2. Chief Audu Ogbeh, The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Dr. Omoregbe W.O. FMARD, Abuja, Minister's Representative
4. Hon. Monday Osaigbovo, The Honourable Commissioner, Edo State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources,
5. Hon. Barr. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun, Federal House of Representatives
6. HRH, Ehizogie Eiluojerio I (JP), The Onojie of Igueben
7. HRM, J.E. Ekpenehin (JP), The Onojie of Onoghola
8. HRH, (AMB) Aikpaojie I (JP), The Onojie of Ebelle
9. HRM, Izebokhai I (JP), The Onojie of Okalo
10. HRM, S.O. Ikhumhen I (JP), The Onojie of Ewatto
11. All Enijie in Esanland
12. All chiefs in attendance
13. Intercontinental Distillers Limited
14. Deacon (Dr.) Vincent Agenmonmen, MFR
15. Mr. Gregory Enahoro
16. Dr. G.A.T. Oboh
17. Prof. Charles O. Omoifo
18. Prof. (Mrs.) Bridget Inegbeboh
19. Chief (Engr.) Patrick Anegebe
20. Hon. Alfred Okpere
21. Mr. Imafidon

22. Engr. Dr. Leemon Ikpea
23. Mr. Emmanuel Ijewere
24. Mr. Henry Egbiki
25. Dr. Celey Okogun
26. Rainbow Securities and Investment Company & Grand Rainbow Solar Services
27. Rt. Rev. (Dr.) Matthew Okpebholo/Ray Royal Construction Company Limited
28. Chief Lawson Omokhodion/Ritsoil Petroleum and Gas Limited
29. Engr. Charles Osezua, OON/Owel Industries Nigeria Limited
30. Mr. Mike Osime/ICMG Commodities Limited
31. Esan Club 30, Port Harcourt
32. Ikolo Esan Organization
33. Nigeria Agribusiness Group
34. CIEs in Esan 5 Local Government Areas
35. Esan Area Commander
36. DPO Esan North East LGA
37. All distinguished guests in attendance
38. Gentlemen of the press

The committee profoundly appreciates the President of AEP, Hon. (Barr.) Matthew Egbadon. His immeasurable contributions to the success of the 13th EEEW is uncommon. We are most grateful to him for his leadership, commitment and love for Esan course.

LIST OF SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE ESAN LANGUAGE QUIZ COMPETITION AT THE 13TH EEEW

1. Annunciation Catholic College (A.C.C), Irrua
2. Ewu Grammar School, Ewu
3. Irrua Girls Secondary School, Irrua
4. Esan Boys Model College, Uromi
5. Our Lady of Lourds Girls Grammar School, Uromi
6. Igueben Grammar School, Igueben
7. Igueben Mixed Secondary School, Igueben
8. Wisdom Group of School, Igueben
9. Kings Commercial Schools
10. St. John Boscoss, Ubiaja
11. Agadaga Secondary School, Ewohimi
12. Obiaza Secondary School, Ubiaja
13. Okhuesan Secondary School, Okhuesan
14. Sacred Heart Girls Model College, Ubiaja
15. St Matthias Secondary School, Ubiaja

16. Emaudo Secondary school, Ekpoma
17. Palm International College, Irukepken
18. Ujemen Secondary School, Ujemen, Ekpoma
19. Ujoelen Grammar School, Ekpoma
20. Ideal Secondary School, Irrua
21. Ikekato Secondary school, Ikekato
22. Shaka Momodu Memorial School, Irrua
23. Arue Secondary School, Arue
24. Baptist Academy
25. Divine Culture Secondary School
26. Ebhoiyi Secondary School, Uromi
27. Eighibhalu Oriasotie Secondary School
28. Efandion Secondary School
29. Goodwill Secondary school
30. Holy Family Academy
31. Inegbeboh Comprehensive College, Uromi
32. Obili Int'l School
33. Amahor Senior Secondary School, Amahor
34. Igueben College, Igueben
35. Shiloh Hill College, Igueben
36. Akhiete Secondary School, Ekpoma
37. Bishop A.C. Memorial College, Ekpoma
38. Christ the Answer Group of Schools
39. Equare Secondary School, Ekpoma
40. Mousco Int'l College, Ekpoma
41. Spiritus Santos Secondary School
42. Holy Innocent Secondary School, Ugboha
43. St. Andrew Catholic College, Emu
44. St. Francis College, Ubiaja
45. Ubiaja Community Secondary School, Ubiaja
46. Udakpa Secondary school, Udakpa

LIST OF COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE FARMERS WORKSHOP AT THE 13TH EEEW

1. Itohan Farmers Cooperative Society
2. Uromi, Eighemhenrior Famers Cooperative Society
3. Esan North-East Palm Oil Famers/Millers Cooperative Society, Uromi
4. Iyoyanbholo Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society, Uromi
5. Ehimen Fadama III Poultry Famers Cooperative Society
6. Iredia Cooperative Society, Igueben
7. Omoegbele Cooperative Society, Uromi
8. Esan Central Cooperative Society, Irrua

9. Akota Cooperative Society, Ewu
10. Aidoyien Cooperative United Society, Irrua
11. Ehinomhen FEAP Cooperative Society, Ubiaja
12. Agbala Cooperative Society, Uromi
13. Uwa-Ahu Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society
14. Omonuwa Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society
15. United Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society
16. Awo young IV Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society
17. Egg Sellers Association
18. Ebawaiki FADAM II Cooperative Society
19. Akohame Oil Processing Cooperative Society
20. Testimony Oil Palm Cooperative Society
21. Great Farmers Cooperative Society, Uromi
22. Idamic Farmers Cooperative Society
23. Ikiewanlen Akomu Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society, Opoji
24. Cassava Cooperative Society, Uromi
25. Ewohimi Akugbe FADAMA III Cooperative Society
26. Ewohimi Akugbe FADAMA III Cassava Farmers Cooperative Society
27. Esan South-East L.G.A., Farmers Cooperative Society
28. The Ultimate Farmers, Ikekato, Irrua
29. Osakue Yam Famers FADAMA III Cooperative Society
30. Akugbe FADAMA III Cassava Farmers Cooperative Society
31. Ededewhen FADAMA III Cassava Farmers Cooperative Society
32. Illushi Ochejo FADAMA III Cooperative Society
33. Illushi Faith in God FADAMA III Cooperative Society
34. Ubiaja-Oyugbo Cooperative Society, Ubiaja
35. Uzeakhide FADAMA III Cooperative Society
36. Esan South-East FADAMA III Cooperative Society, Ubiaja