

## **NEWS FLASH!!! 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2018**

### **AGRIC ESSAY COMPETITION CONDUCTED IN BAYELSA STATE BY THE NIGERIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research for Development (NiWARD), one of the country chapters of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) conducted an essay competition in Bayelsa State on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AWARD in Africa. Eleven Secondary Schools participated in the contest which was organized by the Local Organizing Committee for the 6<sup>th</sup> NiWARD Annual General Meeting and Conference in collaboration with the University of Africa, Toru-Orua, Bayelsa State. There were two categories of contestants in the essay writing competition. The participants in the first category were drawn from senior secondary school students; while participants in the second category were junior secondary school students. Participating schools were Federal Science and Technical College, Tungbo; Community Secondary School, Bulou-Orua; Community Secondary School, Angalabiri, Ijaw National Academy, Kaiama; St. Jude's Girls Secondary School, Amarata; Vision Family Academy, Okutukutu; Divine Brains Comprehensive Academy, Etegwe; Ayama Montessori International School, Tombia; Government Secondary School, Amassoma; Tarakiri Community Secondary School, Ayama; and Nembe National Grammar School, Ogbolomabiri - Nembe. The winners of the competition are yet to be announced as members of the Local Organizing Committee together with an independent panel of judges are processing the answer scripts to ensure that a free and fair selection of the winners of the essay

competition is done. The LOC Chairman in person of Professor Aduabobo Hart stated that prizes will be awarded to the best three essays under each category. She reiterated that the winners will be given their prizes during the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research for Development (NiWARD). Also speaking on the essay competition, the LOC Secretary, Dr Ebinimi Ansa who is also the Special Adviser to the Governor of Bayelsa State on Aquaculture and Fisheries said it was important for the younger generation to be properly mentored, that is why the essay contest was organized for secondary school students. She said that the competition was a means of creating awareness on the importance of agriculture in ensuring good household nutrition and food security. Dr Ansa emphasized that the Hon. Henry Seriake led Restoration Government had put in place massive agricultural infrastructure for the production and processing of food and will also serve in creating jobs for the youth in the State. Some of the projects established by the Government include the Aquaculture Village Yenegwe, which has the capacity of employing 1,000 youths and 60 tonnes per cassava starch processing factory just to mention a few. Dr 'Tomi Abiodun-Solanke, the LOC Publicity Secretary also made it clear that the theme of 6<sup>th</sup> NiWARD conference, BAYELSA 2018, is Restoring Agriculture and Trade through Partnerships and as such will feature a number of activities including oral and poster presentations by participants, exhibition by farmers, food processors and agricultural input and service providers, visit to commercial farms, boat cruise on the Ox-bow lake, workshop sessions for capacity building of conference participants. Dr Blessing Okogbue, an LOC member

encourages interested persons to register and make out time to attend the Conference. She indicated that more details about the conference can be accessed at [www.niward.org](http://www.niward.org). The Conference is slated to take place in Yenagoa at Honni Hills Hotel Banquet Hall, Odede Street, Off Tombia – Amassoma Road, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, Nigeria from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.



Students of Federal Science and Technical College, Tungbo writing their essays



Student of Community Secondary School, Bulou-Orua



Invigilator, staff and students of Nembe National Grammar School



Invigilator with staff and students of Community Secondary School, Bulou-Orua



Invigilator and students of Tarakiri Community Secondary School, Ayama



Invigilator (left) students and agric teacher of Divine Brains Comprehensive Academy



Dr Ebinimi Ansa (middle) with some of the volunteer invigilators before the essay competition