

species for commercial and amenity functions.

Antekhai, of the Department of Fisheries, Lagos State University (LASU), said a national eco aquatic

streams and estuaries.

The map, he explained, should consist information on wetlands, streams, and riparian areas and should provide accurate and de-

Antekhai said opportunities also exist for brackish water aquaculture.

He said such information should be accessed through the web.

He said there are issues

aquatic biodiversity ranks high, due in part to many river systems, diverse geology, and subtropical/temperate climate.

Examining and monitoring this diversity, he emphasised, offers

research information through intensive field work that can be used to monitor and manage the nation's water resources more efficiently.

ORANGE Fleshed Sweetpotato (OFSP) vines have been distributed to farmers at Kuje and Mararaba markets in Abuja by the Potato Growers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria (POGPMAN).

This gesture, which is part of the campaign to sensitise farmers for more cultivation of OFSP, with vitamin (A) content that is good for school children and productive men and women.

The National President, POGPMAN, Hon. Bayo Ajibade, said the sensitisation and the vines distribution would be done at designated states.

This, according to him, is to aid the adoption of the potato species.

He reiterated the readiness of his association to support the Agricultural Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government by ensuring food security through mass cultivation of OFSP, known to be rich in vitamin A.

According to him, OFSP is a special orange fleshed sweetpotato with vitamin A fortification, which help children to grow healthy and enhance productivity for women within the child bearing age. It helps to cure night blindness and is a good nutrient supplement for school children.

More cultivation of it, he noted, would create income opportunities for women.

Also speaking, the Hellen

Farmers get free potato vines



•Farmers queuing to get free vitamin A fleshed potato vines

Keller International promotions expert, Mrs Mary Umoh, said the availability of the vine for planting would never be a problem as there was a

partnership with some research institute, towards increasing production of the vines for farmers in Nigeria and other sub African countries.

Many beneficiaries commended POGPMAN, promising to join in the campaign to increase the use of OFSP.

VC seeks synergy with WAAPP

THE Vice Chancellor (VC), Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Prof. Olusola Oyewole, has called for improved synergy among the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) and Federal University of Agriculture, as a definite way of generating effective and sustainable outcome for agricultural programmes in the country.

The Vice Chancellor made the call in a welcome remark he delivered at a four-day follow-up meeting of WAAPP activities with selected universities in Abeokuta.

He said such cooperation would serve as catalyst, propelling their common resolve, interest and decision to collaborate with WAAPP-Nigeria.

Oyewole noted that the WAAPP, as a World Bank assisted programme for countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has a broad objective of increasing agricultural productivity and promoting regional integration.

He added that the consultative meetings being organised by the WAAPP-Nigeria has presented an opportunity to identify ways of collaborating in furthering the development of the nation's agriculture.

The Vice Chancellor disclosed that reports reaching his Institution concerning the last consultative meeting with Nigerian Universities held in Makurdi gave him the impetus to want to associate the more with WAAPP-Nigeria.

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