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Greener Way to 'Agro' in Emerging Africa

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Contrary to popular belief, the past fallout from the commodity crises in oil-dependent economies has not affected contemporary investment in Africa. The merits behind diversification have been ignored due to past single-resource reliance which has ignored utilizing wholly arable lands in developing emerging markets such as Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria.

There is a way forward for both private enterprises and the public sector either together or independently to reap the benefits of the agribusiness potential in a manner that is sustainable, cost-effective and ecological. One such company that is addressing these issues and challenges as this shift to 'agro' unfolds is Contec Global Group and they will continue to play a leading role in facilitating accountable solutions into the future.

For example, reports have emerged that the 'armyworm,' accidentally exported from the Americas, have ravaged millions of dollars of crops across emerging African countries, potentially creating further, near-irreparable damage in the future. Governments, communities and farmers have no previous experience dealing with the new pest. According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), it has taken but weeks for the worms to spread to six southern African countries, and they are systematically mobilizing north.

This dilemma would trickle down the socioeconomic chain of these budding economies, resulting in low harvest yields which could result in famine, inflation, unrest and further single-commodity-market dependency. After two years of record droughts in those six nations, more than 40 million people in the region have been affected. According to the United Nations 15% less food has been available for consumption. Contec Global knows how to effectively and responsibly resolve these issues. Recently, a deadly Tuta Absoluta outbreak took place during the tomato growing cycle in Nigeria.

Tomatoes are a Nigerian staple, an often-critical component of the daily diet, In the past, during the growing process, challenges such as diseases, nematodes and insect pests, have resulted in poor quality or even crop scarcity.

Similar to the threatening armyworms of today, Tuta Absoluta or 'Tomato leaf miner' larvae puncture the leaf and mine the crop. The damage caused to the plant creates malformation, leading to the development of fungal diseases or to rotting before or after harvest.

To curb this potential epidemic and not blanket Nigeria's farms and fields with toxic chemicals, Contec Global Group, a technologically advanced, innovation-centric conglomerate and its subsidiary enterprise, Contec Agro, went to work.

In short order, they developed and deployed a preventative, wholly organic bio-pesticide spray, 'Fixit GA,' which installs a built-in defense mechanism within the targeted tomato crops. Subsequently, those farmers that applied 'Fixit GA' yielded crops that were not affected by Tuta Absoluta. Those who didn't faced an onslaught of larvae infesting like locusts.

To proactively prevent such infestations, many farmers use chemical pesticides in the trees and in the soil, delivering only tragic outcomes; the airborne pesticides rain down into the soil and, over time, radiate toxicity and destroy the earth's ability to host future harvests. Contec's goal is to use oxygenized, enriched soil, organic in nature and bio-engineered to self-immunize the seeds and deter pest incursion.

It's a model that continues to see success. Nigeria is perhaps the best example of a vibrant African marketplace hosting unparalleled potential. Contec Global continues to introduce the practice of diversification and technological development, so as to meet the needs of a growing population. They do so in a way that does not provide just a 'quick fix,' but ensures that the next generation will have opportunities for sustainable growth.

Contec Global's goal is to promote their ecologically friendly portfolio. The latest challenge in their continued drive to foster next-generation solutions to improve diversification for the advancement of Pan-African societies.

As we say, it is in our hands to create such lasting change.