



•President Umaru Yar'Adua

## GCL to provide N20bn agriculture loan

EFFORTS towards boosting food production in the country was enhanced last weekend, as an agriculture based company, Global Corp Limited, unveiled an agriculture business model through which several export commodities would be increased in Nigeria.

The funds put together by some of the nation's commercial banks and foreign partners for the project is over N20 billion.

Speaking at the event in Lagos, the Chief Executive Officer of Global Corp Limited, Mr Jimie Enobong, said the agric

business strategy was expected to boost staple food production in the South-West, and help reduce Nigeria's spending of over \$150 million on the crops.

Enobong noted that the project was a product of the agreement between the company and All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) early last month, saying the technical committee set up by AFAN and the company was the brain behind the initiative.

"The committee had been charged to design a comprehensive agribusiness model/strategy for all states in the South-West, focusing on how to capitalise on the growing demands of countries in the European Union and Middle East for organics cocoa, wheat, barley, beef and dairy products such as banana, pineapple and raw materials for bio fuel," he said.

According to him, the key recommendations of the committee for achieving this feat included setting up of a network of specialised commercial farms with a minimum of 20,000 hectares of farmlands and 2,000 participating farmers per local government area in each state in the zone and others.

## ing: GIS project to cost more

anywhere in the world."

He stated that the project was nearing completion with between 75 and 80 per cent attainment recorded in 11 months out of the 18 months completion period given to the contractors by the state government for the completion.

He added that the work done covers all the seven modules adding that the achievement so far was on ground with evidence to showcase especially as the stakeholders would gather for the second time to appraise what had

The station would cover 30 kilometres radius and would be serviced by four booster stations or sub stations.

He noted that the ultimate was that by the time the scheme becomes operational, it would link up with the security network in the state and provide a common database for use.

He urged the people not to be scared concerning the services to be provided by the project because the governor had already said it should be service

oriented while the cost for service would be a token.

He commended the Fashola administration for extending the scheme to Ogun State up to Ijoko as he recognised that most of the people there come to work in Lagos from there and should benefit from the scheme.

The special adviser restated that the primary purpose of the project was to produce digital maps and geographical information system database for the implementation of developmental programmes of the state.