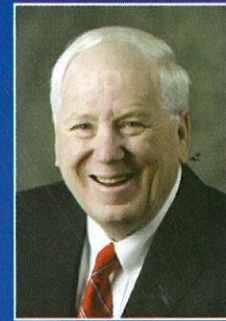
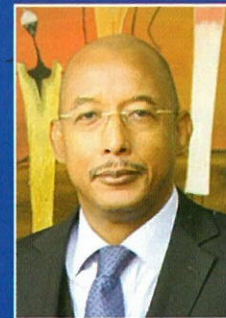


10th Global Agriculture Leadership Awards declared

► The much awaited 10th Global Agriculture Leadership Awards 2017 have been declared in International categories. **Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, President, World Food Prize Foundation** has been selected for the International Leadership Award, while **Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, chief of African Union agency, NEPAD and former Prime Minister of Niger** for African Development Award. Releasing the list, Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman, Indian Council of Food and Agriculture said that these two were possibly the most deserving names on the globe for these categories of awards. Ambassador Quinn is the most admired name in the global agriculture community, who single handedly had raised the status of World Food Prizes equal to Noble Prizes. The World Food Summit and Normal Borlaug Global Dialogue that the Ambassador organizes are the most important global events in the world. Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, as the Prime Minister of Niger launched many schemes with far reaching implications towards agriculture growth and food security of the nation. He introduced economic reforms and innovative legislative measures that brought out a sizeable Niger population out of poverty. Currently as the Chief of African Union agency, NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa Development), Dr. Mayaki is playing critical role in mobilizing global resources and partnerships towards the development of Africa and making it food secure continent. The Global Leadership Award 2017 has been conferred upon Dr. Mayaki in recognition of his visionary leadership, deep commitment and inspiring efforts in promoting understanding on issues concerning farmers, food and nutrition security and climate change towards setting policy and growth agenda and furthering the cause of agriculture globally, which positively touched the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. Global Agriculture Leadership Awards were instituted in 2008 under the Chairmanship of Prof. MS Swaminathan. The Awards are presented annually in the areas of Policy, Research, Farming, Industry, Environment, Innovations, Livelihood, Entrepreneurship, CSR, Development and State, Regional and Global Leaderships. The Awards will be presented on Sept 5, 2017 in New Delhi during the 10th Agriculture Leadership Summit.



Ambassador Kenneth Quinn



Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki

Tie-up for Indian rice farming in Ghana

► After successfully cultivating desi tomatoes on its soil, Ghana is set to grow Indian rice varieties and medicinal and aromatic plants. Goodearth Global Ltd, based in Accra, Ghana, has inked an agreement with the National Research and Development Corporation (NRDC) in this regard. Goodearth is owned by Hyderabad-based international commodity trader ChGopal. As per the agreement signed between him and H Purushotham, Chairman and Managing Director of NRDC, the rice and medicinal and aromatic plants will be grown on 3,000 acres, which the company has leased for 50 years. Goodearth has been present in Ghana for the past five years and is expanding operations. "We have leased virgin land near the town of Ho in the Volta (river) region, which is fertile. The climate is also suitable for growing these crops. Access to the US and European markets is easier from there," Gopal said. The company plans to grow short-duration (125 days), fine-grained blast-resistant paddy variety called 'Telangana Sona'. This variety can be grown both during rainy and winter seasons. Though rice is a staple food for Ghana, where significant quantities are imported, especially from Thailand, Vietnam and India. This offers good scope and opportunity for growing rice in the African nation itself.



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Basmati becomes top agri-export product

► Basmati emerged as the top exporting agri item in the Indian commodity basket, surpassing buffalo meat, in the first quarter of the current fiscal. Reasons: An increased buying from Iran and higher per unit realisation. During the April-June period, basmati contributed 29% to the country's agricultural and processed food product exports value-wise, followed by buffalo meat (19.33%). According to Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority data, basmati exports for the Q1 stood at 12.56 lakh tonnes compared to 11.86 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period of the last year. Though it witnessed a 6% rise volume-wise, thanks to better realisation, the value-wise growth was 32%. The total value of the exports stood at Rs 8,168 crore during the period compared to Rs 6,196 crore during the previous period. As against per tonne realisation of around \$787 during the previous year, basmati has commanded an average price of \$1,009 per tonne in the Q1 this year.