



# AGRA Awards 16 Farmer Organizations In Africa

By EVELYN BAFFOUR  
YEBOAH

**A**S PART of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) efforts to address challenges faced by farmers and farmer organizations (FO) especially in Africa, 16 FO's have been honoured to showcase and support their effective roles in promoting sustainable agriculture and ensure food security on the continent.

The award, which was organized in collaboration with the African Investment Climate Research (AFRICRES) adjudged IMPABARUTA, an FO from Rwanda as the Africa FO of the Year with a plaque and a whopping amount of \$10,000.

IMPABARUTA also emerged the first runner in the Youth and female Participation category with a plaque and \$6,000 as reward. The Rwanda based FO prides itself in improving maize seeds with 678 farmers.

The Africa Farmer Organization Award held at La Palm Beach Hotel in Accra is the first ever FO awards to be conducted by AGRA in West Africa with a total cash prize of \$100,000, certificates and plaques for the first and second runner ups and win-



ners from each of the five categories.

Income Diversity, Youth and Female Participation, Advocacy, Governance and Market Access were the five categories on which the award was based. After the final countdown, three winners were selected from each category.

Addressing audience at the ceremony, Hon. Hannah Bissiw, the Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture in charge of Livestock, commended AFRICRES and AGRA for their immense support to farmers and

farmer organizations.

"I believe that through this kind of recognition and reward, and discussion made at yesterday's Conference, the challenges will be addressed more zealously by our dear farmers to ensure that the expectations we have of them will be fulfilled," she noted.

The Deputy Minister used the occasion to appeal to private sector players to emulate AGRA and AFRICRES and invest in the areas of agriculture to achieve hunger-

free and poverty – free Africa especially those in the rural poor communities on the continent.

Ahead of the awards, AFRICRES together with AGRA organized a conference dubbed Farmer Organizations in Africa: Strengthening Information-Sharing and Partnerships to discuss issues affecting smallholder farmers. The discussion focused on getting better seeds to farmers in Africa, improving soil health, providing better market access, building partnership to change policies and strengthening farmer organization capacities.

Speaking at the conference, AGRA's Director of Communications & Public Affairs, Ms. Sylvia Mwichuli said the two events will motivate farmer organizations to continue to work towards achieving a green revolution in Africa.

Stressing the importance of the conference and the awards, the Provost of College of Agriculture and Consumer Services (University of Ghana) explained collaborative programmes such as this should be organized continuously to actively engage various stake holder in the agric sector to ensure the impartation of knowledge and develop partnership to champion the issues FOs faces.