



The participants at the programme in a photograph

## MCE Woos Youth Into Farming

**FROM I.F. Joe Awuah Jr., Kumasi**

**THE YOUTH** in the country have been told that agriculture is now a business which has the potential of creating jobs and curbing poverty so they should show interest in it.

The Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) of Ejura-Sekyeredumase, Dr. Kingsley Osei, making the call, said those who would go into agriculture would have a secured future.

He was speaking when Integrity Commodities Limited (ICL) in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, organised a sensitisation event in connection with the Planting for Food and Jobs programme (PFJ 2.0) in Ejura, Ashanti Region.

The Minister of Agriculture, Bryan Acheampong, had early on, officially launched the PFJ 2.0 programme in Tamale in the Northern Region, which was also very successful.

The main goal of PFJ 2.0 is to help improve food security, reduce poverty and create employment opportunities, thereby contributing to make farmers live comfortably.

The ICL, which is the aggregator between farmers

and government, will operate in three district offices: Ejura-Sekyeredumasi, Sekyere South and Atebubu-Amantin.

In all, over 10,000 small-holder farmers from Sekyere South, Ejura Sekyeredumase and Atebubu District in the Ashanti and Bono East Regions have partnered with ICL.

Significantly, ICL will distribute weedicides and pesticides, hybrid seeds, fertilisers and also provide extension services on credit to farmers, among other important services.

Dr. Osei reiterated that agriculture is now very lucrative and profitable so the citizenry, notably the youth, should begin to show keen interest in agriculture and boost their future.

According to him, problems such as post-harvest losses that worried farmers would now be a thing of the past with the launching of the PFJ 2.0, and lauded the government.

The Managing Director of Integrity Commodities Ltd, Gideon Quaye, announced that his "outfit had impacted over 60,000 farmers across their operational zones in Ashanti, Bono East and Ahafo Regions" since they joined the programme.