

Nigeria to plant vitamin A biofortified cassava, maize this year

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The Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole said on [May 7] that the ministry embarked on vitamin A food bio-fortification to reduce death rate and boost nutrition in the country.

Adewole, who was represented by the Director of Nutrition, Dr Chris Isukpunwu, disclosed this at the launching of 2016 planting season for bio-fortified vitamin A cassava and maize.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports the programme was organised by Harvestplus Nigeria, at the Federal College of Agriculture, Akure.

HarvestPlus is an international organisation leading a global effort to improve nutrition by developing and disseminating staple food crops that are rich in vitamins and minerals.

The theme of the programme is ‘Scaling Up Bio fortification Investment in Nigeria.’

Adewole noted that vitamin A was one of the five major nutrients of the body, adding that many children under the age of five die due to measles, which is caused by lack of vitamin A.

“It’s a huge cause of death of children under five and the second cause of blindness for adults.

“The ministry partnered Harvestplus because bio-fortified vitamin A yellow cassava especially is a good cure of lack of the vitamin as many people consume cassava in the country.

Read full, original post: Nigeria: FG Embarks On Vitamin a Food Bio-Fortification to Reduce Death Rate – Minister