













Japanese Govt Visits NGO's Rice Farms In Niger State

TH E JAPANESE Ambassador, Mr. Akio Tanaka, and four leading Japanese parliamentarians, led by Mr. Asahiko Mihara, visited the activities of Watershed Initiative in Nigeria (WIN 2001) at Bida, Niger State, recently.

They were introduced to 1.7ha demonstration field where *Sawah* System is being used as a model for the farmers'

technology dissemination on rice.

The system covering 25 ha in 5 villages has been adopted by a total of 83 farmers. The ambassador and the parliamentarians expressed their pleasure to see the fields and some

of the farmers that had adopted the system and promised further collaboration between the Japanese embassy and WIN 2001.

The ambassador said he would work towards sending some of the

young, promising farmers to Japan in the future. He also promised assisting the project with water pumps and other facilities through the grassroots grant.

After the field visit, the team paid a courtesy visit to the Emir of Bida, the Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya

Abubakar. The royal father presented Bida brass work to each visitor and invited the ambassador to visit again in January 2006, during I'd-el Ka-bir festival when a mini durbar will be held.

Dr Rotimi Fashola, the Programme Co-ordina-

tor, led the visitors to the various sites of the project. In the team was the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Niger State, and the managing director of the Niger State Agricultural Development Project (NSADP).



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Dr. Rotimi Fashola of IITA explaining the activities of WIN 2001 to the Japanese ambassador and visiting parliamentarians on Sawah system (rice technology) in Niger State...recently

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