

African Development Bank Representative Tours Alberta

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's International Relations and Marketing branch coordinated an incoming advocacy mission by Dr. Bouchaib Boulanouar, Partnerships Coordinator in the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Agriculture and Agro-Industry Department. Dr. Boulanouar's mission, from February 3-7, coincided with the Canadian Private Sector Liaison Officer Network's International Financial Institution (IFI) Boot camp and Workshop 2019 in Red Deer, AB. This was the AfDB's first time formally participating in the IFI Boot camp and a great opportunity for IRM to continue building on their African initiatives.



Dr. Boulanouar meets Minister Carlier at the University of Alberta

Dr. Boulanouar met with Dr. Stanford Blade, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, at the University of Alberta. Dr. Blade discussed both current and past initiatives his faculty has done in Africa and expressed their desire to continue to develop the agriculture and education sectors in the region.

A meeting with Growing Greener Innovations, an Alberta based company who invented the Grengine™, was arranged as well. The Grengine™ is a portable power alternative that has completely reinvented how power is generated and distributed to people.

“This system fits very well with one of the five priorities the AfDB has identified as critical for Africa's growth, called ‘light up and power Africa.’ I encourage you to look at AfDB funded projects so you can bring this power system to Africa,” said Dr. Boulanouar.

A video conference with the University of Saskatchewan's Global Institute for Food Security proved to be very beneficial as the organization is heavily involved in Ethiopia and will be looking at AfDB-funded projects in the near future to further propel their initiatives. Additional meetings with Altiva Inc. and Cynel Global Resources and Latium Fleet Management also took place during Dr. Boulanouar's visit.



Wanda Aubee with Dr. Boulanouar at the Leduc Food Processing Development Centre

Lastly, Dr. Boulanouar was given a tour of the Food Processing Development Centre in Leduc as Africa grows a variety of crops, but does not further process or add significant value to the majority of them. Africa does not have a comparable facility, but Dr. Boulanouar said that he would report on the benefits such a facility would have on the African economy when he returns to Africa.

For more information on developing markets:

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