



SHELL & NIHERST LAUNCH GLOBAL YOUTH NXPLORERS PROGRAMME



EQUIPPING THE HISTORY MAKERS OF TOMORROW

More than 170 students from twelve (12) secondary schools and four (4) universities are participating in a Shell pilot programme implemented by NIHERST.

Shell NXplorers is a global, innovative and educational programme that introduces young people to the complex and creative thinking needed to bring about positive change, focusing on the Food-Water-Energy nexus.

The programme aims to build awareness, develop knowledge and provide essential thinking tools and complex problem solving skills to the leaders of the future.

Shell has partnered with NIHERST to bring its exciting, global, Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STREAM) programme to Trinidad and Tobago. Shell's Nxplorers programme powered by NIHERST is offered free of charge to secondary and university undergraduate students between the ages of 17-25 years old.

The virtual pilot programme which began on February 15, 2021 is ongoing, following which Shell will roll out a national programme before the end of 2021.



Photo: Students posing for marketing photos, illustrating science experiments.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ALREADY DOING SOME GREAT THINGS THROUGH OUR STEM PROGRAMME AND OTHER INITIATIVES.

"Shell NXplorers enables young people to take on some of the world's biggest challenges: Water, Food and Energy security for the future, and we are pleased to have NIHERST as our partner. Our young people are already doing some great things through our STEM programme and other initiatives. Shell NXplorers, which targets secondary and tertiary level students, provides the next phase of critical thinking, ideation and technology application to develop working solutions to some of the world's biggest challenges," said Eugene Okpere, Vice President and Country Chair, Shell.

THE CONTEXT OF SHELL NXPLORERS:

The Food, Water and Energy Nexus Conference in Bonn, West Germany, 2011 revealed that 70% of the expected global population of 9.2 billion people will be living in cities by 2050. A correlation shows

the demands for water, food and energy will increase exponentially with projections of a 70% increase in agricultural demand by 2050, 40% increase in energy demand by 2030 and with similar projections for water demand to satisfy agriculture and energy production. In relation to the Caribbean, CARICOM countries import more than 60% of the food they consume (FAO 2015), where Trinidad and Tobago produces only 8% of their required staples (MFPLMA). There is also an estimated increase in the demand for primary energy to be at least 80% by 2040 in Latin America and the Caribbean (IDB 2016). Furthermore, in Trinidad and Tobago, there is an approximate 48% of public water supply that is unaccounted for water (UFW) which disrupts water supply to customers and increase costs (MPU 2017).

Shell NXplorers is designed to give young people the tools and strategies they need to understand complexity and to recognise how they can shape, create and become agents of change. It is a facilitated programme, operationalised in schools, universities and learning centres, where staff and

students learn and engage in real world issues. It introduces a new way of thinking, NXthinking, that encourages people to dig beneath the surface of problems and to understand the complexity and interrelated factors that cause them. NXthinking is drawn from the disciplines of system thinking, scenario planning and theory of change.

" This wave of NXthinking provides a platform for innovators to get ready today, for the future."

"This robust 21st century skills initiative, targeting the nation's youth, can only help to reinforce the NIHERST mandate towards having a society that applies scientific, technological and innovative solutions to build a better Trinidad and Tobago." – Marleen Lord-Lewis, NIHERST President.

The Shell NXplorers programme is poised to make an investment in today's youth to solve global sustainability issues of the future. Stay tuned for information on our future cycle.

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