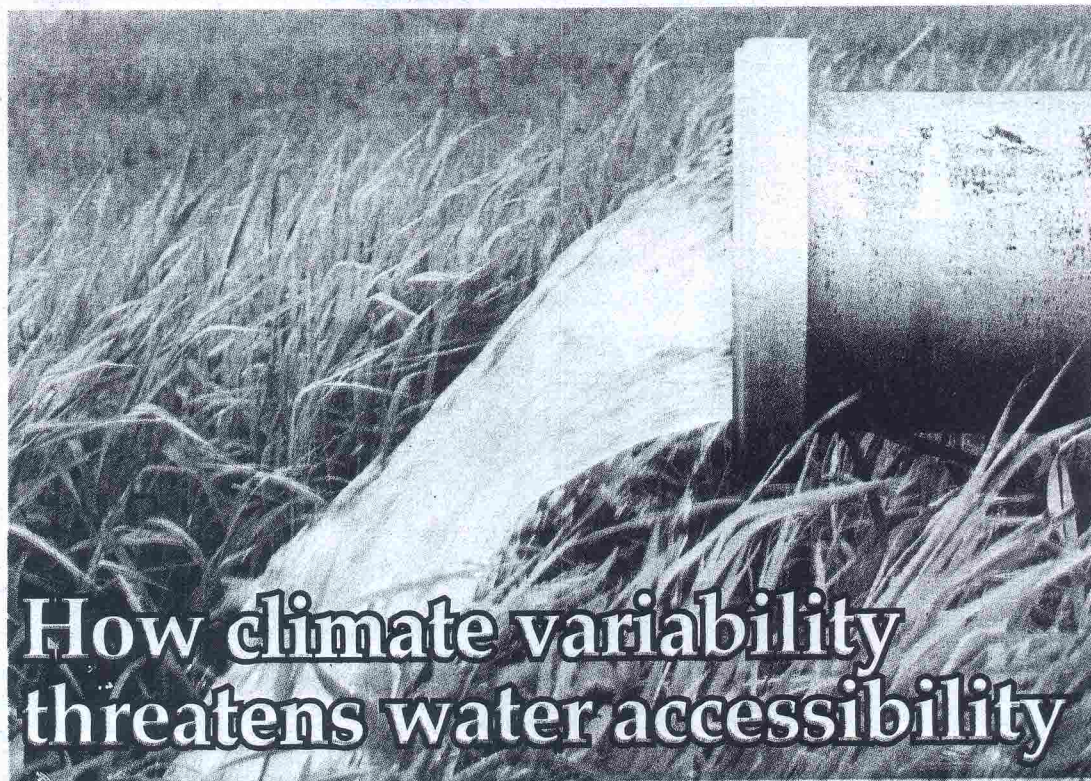


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CTI unveils innovative concrete designs, protection

CONCRETE coating sector operator, CTI Nigeria, has disclosed plans to unveil a range of products considered as alternatives to marbles and tiles.

The firm distributes and installs a coating designed to protect existing concrete while giving it the look, texture and colour of inlaid brick, tile, slate, marble or something unique to the owner.

According to company officials, the organisation's mission is to create a revolutionary protection for concrete by becoming the premier concrete and resurfacing company in Nigeria.

Stating the values of CTI in concrete protection at a media forum in Epe last week, the CTI Chief Executive Officer, Monsurat Omotayo, stated, "The CTI system is an innovative product that brings beauty and aesthetic to concrete. It is ideal for the Nigerian weather as the concrete is made to be resistant to UV rays, cracks and chemical. It increases the economic value of properties with concrete made twice as strong."

Speaking in the same vein, company Chairman, Hafis Omotayo, noted, "CTI Nigeria is the sole distributor of CTI products in Nigeria, with business relationship with CTI Florida. CTI's revolutionary coating system can take any structurally sound concrete and give it new life. One unique feature about the CTI system is that it can be installed in an unlimited number of designs, colours and patterns and is friendly with any weather condition."

Similarly, the firm organised a training session for staff, dealers and interested participants on how to install and design their products. Chuck Brewer, the Operations Director from CTI Florida, United States, was the facilitator of the training exercise. He described CTI's revolutionary concrete coating as a welcome and needed change to the outlook of real estate and construction in Nigeria. He stated that it enhances value of buildings and properties, and that the CTI system has a 7000 psi rating compared to other products with mostly 2000-2500psi rating, thus ranking the CTI system as more reliable.

Speaking on its property preservation quality, Omotayo explained that the system includes the most effective crack repair system that is the first in the Nigerian property market. The need to achieve a cost effective and efficient refurbishing of buildings in very minimal time is a new innovation that CTI has brought to Nigeria, he added.

A participant at the training, Kola Raji, commended the organisation for bringing the innovation to Nigeria and for also organising the training session to familiarise professionals in the property and construction industry with the technology.

An affiliate of CTI Largo, of Florida in USA, CTI Nigeria was established last year. It delivers customised marble-look logos, walkways, driveways, swimming pool decks, countertops, and interiors through what officials describe as a mix of creativity, accuracy and flexibility.

According to them, CTI's products can withstand the most extreme climates. Freezing and thawing, salts and de-icing agents, sun and other elements that will normally deteriorate concrete over time have no effect on CTI system, they stated.

How climate variability threatens water accessibility

Stories by Michael Simire
Property & Environment Editor

THE WORRISOME state of water insecurity and scarcity in large parts of the developing world is being made more precarious, no thanks to the increasing variability in global climatic conditions.

In some parts of Africa, higher temperatures, increased evaporation and lower rainfall have reportedly combined to reduce water flow by up to 40 percent in major rivers and caused recurrent drought.

Nigeria seems to be having its fair share of the impasse and, according to scientists, the changing climate is likely to exacerbate water management problems in the country through its impact on rising sea levels in coastal regions, variable rainfall and extreme events like floods and drought particularly in north.

In fact, the issue was under focus last week in Lagos by a cross-section of eggheads, at the "Dialogue on Water and Climate Change," organised by the Bread of Life Development Foundation (BLDF) in collaboration with the Water and Sanitation Media Network.

The forum, say the organisers, was aimed at highlighting water resources management issues in the context of climate change, thereby empowering Nigeria's water resources stakeholders to engage in national and international negotiations to ensure that water is placed on the climate agenda.

According to the participants, the consequences of climate change are a major challenge to the management of water resources and barriers to the transition from poverty to prosperity by Nigerians. They predict that besides affecting urban and rural water through unpredictable rainfall leading to inadequate

recharge of aquifers and surface water, drought arising from climate change is likely to have adverse consequences on the hydrological cycle and water resources in the country.

The gathering identifies an increase in river siltation in the country, adding that the monthly rainfall data shows that the dry period is being characterised by a decrease in the number of rainy events, while the mean storm rainfall varies little.

It contends that climate change is also expected to lead to increases in sea surface temperature and mean global sea level, changes in salinity, wave conditions, and ocean circulation; disruption of marine ecosystems dynamics, with significant impacts on fish-dependent human societies; and increased levels of flooding, accelerated erosion, loss of wetlands and mangroves, and seawater intrusion into freshwater sources.

In the coastal regions of Nigeria, the receding shoreline coupled with the 30 to 60 km tidal excursion length around the Niger Delta suggests increasing salinisation of upland ground water, note the participants in a communiqué released at the close of the daylong event, which is the first in the series.

In the forest zone of southern Nigeria, projections indicate an increase in rainfall during the rainy season months and a decrease during the dry season months, especially December-February, as well as probability of the dry season becoming drier while the rainy season becomes wetter.

As a way out of the impasse, the forum underlines the need to thoroughly investigate groundwater-stream flow interactions, suggesting that integrated water resources management (IWRM) should be

used as a veritable tool for adaptation to climate change impacts on water resources.

National and state governments, recommend delegates, should gear up efforts to reduce unsustainable water management and improve the efficiency of agricultural water use. Similarly, innovative and strategic investment, research and development together with international cooperation, add the participants, should be promoted to improve agricultural water management by means of participatory irrigation management, water harvesting, water-saving/drought-resistant crop varieties, water storage, and dissemination of agricultural best practices.

The forum further calls for the promotion of participatory water conservation, emphasising that groundwater recharge/monitoring mechanisms should be set up by sectoral water service providers and policy formulators. Participants likewise seek the development and promotion of water efficiency plans by all stakeholders, while calling for the promotion of rainwater harvesting particularly in rural communities.

The communiqué states, "Inter basin water transfer and hydraulics structure provision should be encouraged, and aquifer load reduced using surface water with simple purification systems like slow sand filtration. Efficient water management and drinking water saving devices should be promoted, and water utilities should take measures to reduce water theft and leakages."

"Federal and State Ministries of Water Resources in Nigeria should ensure that water resources issues are adequately addressed in climate change analyses and climate policy formulations. Likewise,

climate change problems should be adequately dealt with in water resources analyses, management and policy formulation in the state. Water supply and sanitation (WSS) policies should be updated to address climate change adaptation measures, even as water reuse and recycling should be promoted including better utilisation of grey water."

"Construction of dry toilet/eco-sanitation model systems should be promoted by Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agencies to reduce water use. Similarly, water utility bodies should incorporate information about current climate variability into water-related management."

"The WSS agencies in the state would organise more public education on water demand management, and industries are encouraged to change industrial process changes to reduce water intensity."

The BLDF and the Water and Sanitation Media Network were commended for facilitating the dialogue, which will henceforth hold monthly as a platform to discuss and proffer solutions to problems facing nation's WSS sector.

Three presentations were made at the forum. While Babatope Babalobi, the BLDF Executive spoke on the "Imperatives of mainstreaming water issues into climate change discussions", Professor Lekan Oye-bande, Chair of the Technical Committee, West African Water Partnership, spoke on "Likely impacts of climate variability and change on water resources and their availability in Nigeria."

Mr. R.A. Ayeni, Deputy Director, Rural Water Supply Department of the Lagos State Ministry of Rural Development, delivered a paper on "Water and climate change: Lagos State as a case study."