

## CSAS-GSAP PARTNERSHIP SEMI ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

This report covers the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters (April 1 to September 30, 2007) of the Second Year of Phase 2 of the CSAS - GSAP International Partnership Project.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- to strengthen and utilize the institutional capacity of GSAP to improve household food security and income among women in the Northern Region of Ghana
- to mobilize and empower sustainable women's groups to access information on environmentally sustainable and economically viable technologies that will enhance the shea nut-livestock production system.

### PROJECT LOCATIONS

All the project communities of the First Phase were maintained and nine new communities, within the three districts in the Northern Region came on board. Two other districts in Upper West Region namely Jirapa-Lambuse and Lawra, where the Ghana Institute of Horticulturists (GhIH) operate were included in the project as an outcome of GSAP's strategic local partnership.

#### Locations of women's groups

Region	District	Community	Distance from Tamale (km)
Northern Region	West Mamprusi	Nasia*	85
		Nakpaya*	90
		Daboya	109
		Tiya	110
		Sooba	111
		Janga	109
		Gbimsi*	117
		Duu	149
		Kpansenkpe	161
	Sawla-Tuna-Kalba	Tikpankura*	264
		Soma	256
		Jinkaa*	255
		Disabur*	253
		Grunyiri	224
		Kunfusi*	269
Bole	Jentilpe*	211	
	Mandari	255	
Upper West Region	Lawra	Baale*	250
		Kuonwob*	407
Upper West Region	Jirapa-Lambuse	Sentu*	442
Total	5	20	

\* New communities, Tamale is the operational centre of the field activities

### ACTIVITIES

#### TRAINING AND WORKSHOP

##### Training

Training in livestock management, rangeland improvement and intensive fodder production with *Stylosanthes hamata* was provided to all the groups in West Mamprusi and Sawla-Tuna-Kalba as well as Mandarin in the Bole districts. Community awareness creation on prevention of HIV/AIDS,

malaria and other common diseases provided to 7 women groups. A total of 210 women and 14 men attended these workshops.

All the women groups in West Mamprusi District were trained in group dynamics, micro-credit and agri-business management by staff of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and Department of Cooperatives.

## NETWORKING AND CONFERENCES

### Enhanced South-South Exchange

AIC provided sponsorship for exchange visits between the two Ghanaian projects (GSAP and GhIH) and the Tanzania project (TSAEE). One member of CSHS/CCCTP participated in the Tanzania visit and two members from CSHS participated in the Ghana visit.

#### 1. Tanzania visit

GSAP participants, Dr. A. Naazie, Dr. N. Karbo and Mrs. Patricia Aboe together with GhIH participants, Mrs. Irene Idun, Gustav Mahunu and Abubakari Abdul-Halim and CSHS/CCCTP participant, Ms. Dinah Cephis visited TSAEE projects from April 16 to 22, 2007. The specific objectives of the visit were to:

- participate in gender audit workshop - how best to engender/mainstream gender in programming, identify best practices,
- determine how to develop curriculum and training to groups on gender issues and HIV/AIDS,
- identify implementation of orange-fleshed sweet potato vine multiplication and incorporation into local diet; and
- implement use of tangible goals, record-keeping and analysis.

#### 2. Ghana visit

Ms. Leona Gambishi, Mr. Abbas Munisi and Mr. Beny Muenda of TSAEE accompanied by Mrs. Cathy Day and Mrs. Mona Cornock of CCCTP visited Ghana from June 17 to 23, 2007. The team was accompanied by Dr. K. Oppong-Anane and Mr. A. Addo-Kwafo of GSAP, and Mr. Patrick Kumah and Mr. Gustav Mahunu of GhIH. Dr. N. Karbo (GSAP) and Mrs. Irine Idun (GhIH) joined the team in Kumasi. Activities/visits undertaken were as follows:

DAY	JUNE	ACTIVITY
Sunday	17	Visits to University of Ghana, Animal Research Institute, Agricultural Research Station, Animal Production Directorate Dairy Farm
Monday	18	Visit to Pong Tamale Livestock Extension village Visit West Mamprusi - Janga GSAP Women's Group (shea butter, livestock and micro-credit)
Tuesday	19	Visit Bole GSAP Women Groups at Sawla and Bole (shea butter and livestock)
Wednesday	20	Visit Busa - GhIH Youth in Vegetable Farming Visit Kane- GhIH the Blind in Vegetable Farming
Friday	22	Workshop on Skills Facilitation (Facilitators: Cathy and Mona) Roundtable Discussion on Gender Equality (Continuation from Tanzania. Facilitator: Dr. N. Karbo) Wrap-up and Evaluation

### GSAP 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference and 21<sup>st</sup> AGM

The 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial GSAP conference and 21<sup>st</sup> AGM were held at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2007. The theme for the conference was 'Moving the Animal Industry Forward -The Role of Agricultural Extension. The Welcome address was given by the Pro Vice Chancellor of the University. A representative of the Minister of

Food and Agriculture delivered the Minister's address. Among sister associations present were the Ghana Animal Science Association, the Ghana Institute of Horticulturists and the Animal Science Association of Nigeria. The Nigerian association was represented by the President, Dr. G.O. Oyediji, the Secretary General, Dr. Kingsley O Adeseinwa, and an executive member, Professor Eustace A. Iyayi. Also in attendance were two members of the Canadian project coordinating committee, Dr John Baah and Dr. Shannon Scott and the FAO Regional Animal Health Officer. Two members of GSAP, Dr Bafour Awuah and Mr. S. A. Adongo were made Fellows of GSAP while eminent practitioners in the livestock industry, Mr. Naja Raja of Aqua Farms Ltd and Mr. S. B. Apeadu of Agricare Ltd received Honorary Fellowship of GSAP. Dr Awomah of Cape Coast University and Dr. F. Obese of Animal Research Institute were elected President and Vice-president of GSAP, respectively. A total of 95 GSAP members comprising 70 males and 25 females attended the conference.

### **Strengthening Linkages with Professional Bodies.**

#### **1. Animal Science Association Nigeria (ASAN) Annual Conference**

The immediate past President of GSAP, Dr. N. Naazie, and Secretary, Mrs. P.A.T. Aboe, represented GSAP at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual ASAN conference at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State Nigeria from 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> September, 2007. The theme for the conference was 'Animal Science for Livestock Quality Assurance'. Among the invited guests was the first African holder of PhD (1951) in Animal Science and his first student. The Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) which is backed by an act of Parliament was inaugurated at the opening ceremony. The Institute is expected to regulate Animal Science practice in Nigeria. A book "Animal Science Practice in Nigeria by Dr. Oyediji, President of ASAN was also launched. The book chronicles the struggles and effort of ASAN to get the act creating NIAS passed by the federal parliament.

#### **2. Ghana Institute of Horticulturists 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Project Coordinator, Dr. K. Oppong-Anane, and a representative of GSAP, Prof. D. B. Okai attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of GhIH in Kumasi on 5 September 2007 and delivered fraternal messages on behalf of the Project and GSAP.

#### **3. GSAP and GhIH Collaborative Activities**

The following activities/areas of collaboration were undertaken in conjunction with GhIH under the South-South collaboration programme. Details are provided in GhIH/GSAP Collaboration Project Report 1.

- Preparation and signing of a memorandum of understanding
- Training on RBM and Gender
  - Accra - 23 participants, 7 females and 16 males
  - Kumasi – 27 participants, 9 females and 18 males
  - Tamale – 150 participants, 47 female and 103 male students including 15 GASP and GhIH members
- Training on scientific writing and extension papers presentation
  - Accra – Participants 98 students (27 female and 71 males) from the University of Ghana,
  - Kumasi - Participants 151 students (40 females and 111 males) from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.
  - Mampong – Participants 104 (20 females and 84 males) from the University of Education
  - Cape Coast - Participants 112 (11 females and 101 males) from the University of Cape coast.
  - Tamale – Participants 150 (47 females and 103 males) from the University for Development Studies and 15 GSAP and GhIH members
- Joint features in newsletters, journals, and editorials
  - GSAP has produced 2 Newsletters, 1 conference proceeding and 1 scientific journal

- GhIH has produced 1 Newsletter and 1 conference proceeding.
- Joint video features/documentaries
  - Preparation of video documentary on GSAP and GhIH projects is on-going
- Training of farmers on nutrition, HIV and AIDS as well as malaria
  - Training in nutrition and awareness creation in HIV/AIDs and malaria were offered to 278 people (246 females and 132 males)
- Introduction of livestock to vegetable communities and vice-versa
  - In view of intense farming activities in the raining season only 59 persons (49 females and 30 males) from 2 communities benefited.
- Farmer exposure visits
  - Postponed to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter in view of intensity of farming activities in the raining season.

## **Other local and international partnerships**

### **1. Shea butter processing by Mandari women's groups and JAKSALLY**

The established linkage between the Mandari women groups and JAKSALLY, a local youth group at Bole, is still functional. Work on the machine house has been completed and the processing equipment and other machineries have been installed and test ran. The project paid Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 2,000) as the women's share for the production of the shea butter.

### **2. Micro credit management**

GSAP utilized its strengthened capacity and linkages with the Bridges of Hope Ministries of Lethbridge and two local NGOs to improve household food security and income of 210 women in 18 groups in northern Ghana through micro-credit management. An amount of US\$21,480 provided by Bridges of Hope Ministries was used in this endeavor.

#### **i. Micro-credit management for CSAS-GSAP Project Women Groups**

A total of 140 women from 14 women groups in West Mamprusi District that excelled in performance of the project's cost-recovery program for protective clothing and insecticide treated bed nets were provided with US\$108.69 each, totaling US\$15,216.60 under the project's micro-credit program for procurement of farm produce for sale during the lean period.

#### **ii. Micro-credit management with Northern Development Society (NODESCO)**

NODESO, an NGO in the West Mamprusi district collaborated with GSAP on the micro-credit scheme. An amount of US\$3,031.20 was disbursed to 40 women, at US\$ 75.78 per woman for sheanut procurement and processing for export.

#### **iii. Micro-credit management with Women Emancipation Foundation (RWEF)**

Thirty women from 2 groups of RWEF of Lawra District in the Upper West Region received US\$108.69 each, making a total of US\$3,260.70 for procurement of farm produce for sale during the lean period.

### **GSAP Newsletter**

GSAP newsletters, highlighting GSAP and the project activities, were produced for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters and distributed to GSAP members, stakeholders and agricultural libraries.

### **Journal**

The second and third issues of the Ghanaian Journal of Animal Science were published and 200 copies distributed to libraries or sold to members.

### **Project Coordinating and Monitoring**

Quarterly PCC meetings were held on 5 April and 4 July to discuss planned project activities and provide guidelines to the GSAP field team. The project Coordinator, however, called at the GSAP Office whenever his assistance was required for the running of the project.

Quarterly meetings were held by the Assistant Coordinator (Dr. Karbo) and the District Directors of Agriculture in project districts on project related issues and selection of topics for community level training for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters on 10 April, 2007 and 4 July, 2007 respectively.

The Project Coordinator, accompanied by Dr. Karbo, visited 3 women groups in the West Mamprusi District at Janga on 31 May, 2007 to monitor the progress of the micro-credit scheme. In attendance were 52 women and 6 men.

### **PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION**

GSAP Executive Council members, led by the president, briefed the Minister of Food and Agriculture on 8 August, 2007 on GSAP and Project activities and used the occasion to invite him to deliver the keynote address during the GSAP conference.

The Assistant Coordinator, Dr. Karbo, accompanied by the respective District Directors of Agriculture of project districts, briefed District Chief Executives of the various project districts on project activities at the beginning of each quarter.

Promotion of the Project and GSAP were boosted by the visit of TAEES and CSHS members and the Canadian project coordinating committee members to the project communities.

### **MATERIAL ASSISTANCE**

The GSAP and Project Field Offices were equipped with the following items

- 2 computers and accessories
- 2 UPS
- 2 Printers
- 1 wireless internet modem

The following items were provided to the women's groups.

- 17 pairs of Wellington boots
- 17 insecticide treated mosquito nets
- 412 kg of forage legumes seeds
- 1,000 doses of PPR vaccines
- 1,000 doses of Newcastle vaccines

### **PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE**

#### **Visit of CSAS Coordinating Team**

A two member team from CSAS, Dr. John Baah and Dr. Shannon Scott, attended the 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference and 21<sup>st</sup> AGM of GSAP. After the conference, the team together with Dr. Opong-Anane and Dr. N. Karbo of the Ghanaian PCC visited some of the project communities in the Northern and Upper West Regions as well as micro-credit beneficiaries under the Northern Development Society. The communities visited were Duu, Walewale, Janga, Nasia, Sawla, Bole, Mandari, Babile, and Lawra. The CSAS team had discussions with GSAP executive and the Project coordinating team on project coordination, implementation and journal preparation, and monitored and evaluated the project.

### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT, APPLIED AND PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH APPLIED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH**

- Laboratory analysis of feed samples undertaken.
- Community crop-livestock integration systems undertaken.
- Forage establishment technology provided and monitoring undertaken.

## **SUMMARY OF THE ACTUAL RESULTS ACHIEVED AGAINST PLANNED RESULTS**

- Planned training of women in animal production and health, group dynamics were carried out, however, community awareness on effects of bush fires on the environment was not undertaken.
- Most of the expected results under networking emanating from coordination, monitoring, journal production strengthened linkages with professional bodies were achieved. Increased GSAP membership is on-going and other such as developed data base system on GSAP activities and members will be achieved in subsequent quarters.
- Satisfactory promotion of GSAP and project activities was achieved. Development of brochures on the society and lobbying and advocacy in conjunction with GhIH has been planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters.
- Material assistance in terms of computers, protective clothing, insect treated mosquito nets and vaccines, with the exception of anti snake serum were provided.
- The only planned professional exchange for the period, participation of GSAP conference and AGM, and monitoring and evaluation of project by 2 Canadian PCC members were undertaken.
- Laboratory analysis and community livestock systems production were undertaken and plans made for student thesis preparation in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

## **VARIANCE**

- Community awareness of bushfire and farmer to farmer visits were not undertaken, the later was the result of the intensification of farming activities in the second quarter. It is, however, expected that the planned activities for the year will be covered by the close of the year.
- Collaborating with local NGOs in micro-credit management enabled loans to be disbursed to a larger number of women than anticipated. The collaboration is expected to improve loan recovery.
- The exchange visits between the Ghanaian and Tanzanian project implementers and GSAP and the Nigerian society as well as that of the Canadian project coordinating committee have strengthened the institutional capacity of GSAP for advocacy and improved household food security and income among the project communities.
- Animal Science Association Nigeria shared with GSAP executive the modalities involved in the establishment of an Institute of Animal Science backed by an act of Parliament.
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## **Changes in beneficiaries, changes in risks and mitigation efforts, changes in the broad context**

- The GSAP and GhIH collaborative activities and local partnership between the project and NDS and RWEF have significantly widened the range of beneficiaries. A total of 70 women from 7 non-project groups benefited from the micro-credit scheme and livestock improvement messages. Livestock production is also being introduced to GhIH vegetable farmers.
- More GSAP members and tertiary agricultural students have benefited from joint GSAP-GHIH organized workshops on gender equity, RBM, scientific writing and extension delivery.
- Over 500,000 people across the country became aware of GSAP and CSAS-GSAP Partnership Project through the print and electronic media resulting mainly from the Enhanced South-South Exchange visits and GSAP-GhIH collaborative activities.
- Peaceful political climate in the project communities and the country in general enhanced implementation of project activities. However, the floods in the northern part of the country have had deleterious effects on farming activities. West Mamprusi district lost 17,901 hectares of cultivated crop to the flood. This has the potential of resulting in

severe food shortages, particularly in the northern Ghana and the country as a whole if mitigation efforts are not put in place to arrest the problem.

- Loss of crops may affect the timely payment of loans under the micro-credit scheme. NDS women groups have assured the project of timely payment. It may be necessary to extend the repayment period for the project groups where necessary.
- There has not been any reported death of livestock in the project areas as a result of floods. However, the flooding has reduced grazing area with resultant reduced feed intake in the West Mamprusi District locations. There is also a likelihood of increased incidence of high humidity related disease outbreaks and pest infestations. Vaccination of livestock against specified diseases is on-going and the project is assisting MoFA to deliver livestock production messages aimed at alleviating the problems of feed shortage and improving the welfare of the animals.

### **Gender Equality**

- Influence of women in community development and decision making continue to improve through the income generation activities under the project and in particular the micro-credit scheme
- Attendance of 25 women at this year's GSAP Biannual Conference and Annual AGM is the highest so far.
- Improved health of women from prevention of snake bites and malaria, and their active involvement in managing use of ASV have improved their standing in the communities.
- Mentoring of female agricultural tertiary students will enhance gender equality within GSAP and the country at large.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- Continuous re-enforcing of the under growth of shea trees with forage legumes and intensive fodder production will cut down the preferential grazing of specific indigenous forage species which are at risk of extinction and thereby enhance biodiversity.
- Adoption of improved housing of livestock by women enhances collection and use of manure for soil nutrient and texture improvement

### **Analysis**

- The project implementation at the field level worked well in view of the high sense of individual commitment and voluntarism of the implementers.
- Report preparation and timely submission have not been very good. Measures put in place to ensure improvement include the training of the treasurer to be able to prepare financial reports and for GSAP to provide relevant information on the society to the PCC.
- Were there any unintended results either positive or negative?
- Involvement of local NGOs in the micro-credit management increased the coverage and promotion of the scheme.

### **Sustainability of Results**

- Duties of the core project coordinating team have been streamlined to ensure that the treasurer is capable to prepare financial results by December 2007.
- A senior scientist with proven record in scientific writing has been appointed the chief editor of GSAP to ensure timely and sustainable publication of the journal.
- With the appointment of the head of the project field activities as the Director of animal Production and re-location to Accra two other non ARI members of GSAP have been included in the team.

### **Lessons Learned**

- Team building of all actors in terms of collegiality, trust and transparency as well as maintaining effective linkages and communication are prerequisite for effective management of project.

- Individual commitment and voluntarism are the key factors to the successful running of the project. No matter one's commitment he must create time for undertaken project duties in some cases at odd times.
- The revolving fund model for cost recovery of protective clothing and treated bed nets was beneficial in designing and implementing the micro-credit scheme.
- Intensive fodder production in the communities ensured feed for livestock when fodder from the range was inaccessible as a result of the floods.
- The facilitation of livestock and poultry health and introduction of various forage legumes for feeding and improved housing management leads to increased productivity and reduced stock mortalities.

### **Recommendations**

- Recommendations for action
  - The planned activities and resource allocation seem appropriate during the first two quarters. However, it may be necessary to re-allocate additional resources to assist the women's groups to alleviate problems associated with the floods.
  - The high turnover rate of key staff working on the project over the years through transfers could erode confidence and trust building in the partnership of trainers and beneficiaries. The recent promotion of the head of the field implementation group, Dr. Karbo, to the directorship of Animal Research Institute and his re-location to Accra is a typical example. Active involvement of more non-research GSAP members and subordinate staff in the project activities would be necessary in ensuring sustainability.
  - The repayment period of loans under the micro-credit program by groups affected by the floods will have to be re-negotiated to reduce the burden on repayment within the agreed 6 month period.