

## **CSAS-Ghana Partnership Project Mid-Year (Phase 2: April – September 2006) Report**

Significant progress continues to be made in our partnership project with the Ghana Society of Animal Production (GSAP). As in previous years the project continues to provide technical and material assistance to GSAP and the women beneficiaries in Northern Ghana. Dr. John Baah was in Ghana from 2 to 16 September, 2006 where he attended the annual conference of the Ghana Animal Science Association and participated in the AGM of GSAP. He also undertook monitoring visits to some of the communities participating in the project in addition to reviewing CIDA and AIC's reporting guidelines with Ghanaian counterparts in order to strengthen and streamline the project's financial and technical reporting activities. Phase 2 of the project was officially launched in Ghana on 8 September, 2006. The launching was attended by all major stakeholders. Also present at the launching were the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Ghana and the Acting Canadian High Commissioner in Ghana who delivered the keynote address. The CSAS was represented by Dr. Baah who also read congratulatory messages from the AIC President Mr. Sandy Todd and the CSAS President Dr. Mike Dugan on behalf of the AIC and CSAS, respectively.

Another significant event during the latter part of 2006 was the launching of the micro credit component of the project. This was made possible by the generous contribution of \$25,000 from Bridges of Hope, a non-profit Canadian humanitarian organization. The first phase of this micro-credit facility will provide loans to assist the women in marketing agricultural produce from their communities, as well as to expand their other income-generating activities including shea butter processing, livestock rearing and vegetable gardening. Together, these complementary activities will accelerate the achievement of the objectives of the partnership project, which include increasing the income of rural women, and enhancing the security of food and nutrition in rural households.

The Ghanaian project coordinator, Dr. Kwame Oppong-Anane, the recipient of the 2006 AIC International Partners Award was in Winnipeg in November to receive his award. During his visit to Canada, Dr. Oppong-Anane held discussions with the newest member of Canadian Project Coordinating team, Dr. Shannon Scott. He also visited Alberta and met with Drs McAllister and Ambrose as a follow-up to their visit to Ghana in 2005 to further explore ways of strengthening the linkages between AAFC, AAFRD and research and educational institutions in Ghana.

In summary, the project is on course and continues to receive very positive comments from AIC and favorable media coverage in Ghana.

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