

## **\$25K donation enables micro-credit project for rural women in northern Ghana to take off**

Bridges of Hope, a non-profit humanitarian aid organization in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada has provided \$25,000 to the Canadian Society of Animal Science / Ghana Society of Animal Production (CSAS-GSAP) partnership project to establish a rural micro-credit project for women in northern Ghana. The project will be administered through the CSAS-GSAP partnership, and modeled after another highly successful CSAS-GSAP micro-credit program that enabled procurement of protective clothing and insecticide-treated bed nets.

Under the present project, approximately 150 women in three communities in the Bole and West Mamprusi districts of northern Ghana will benefit from this initial grant, with other communities being added as the project progresses. Selection of loan beneficiaries, as well as disbursement and re-payment of the loans will be the collective responsibility of each of the women's groups participating in the project.



The first phase of the micro-credit project will provide loans to the women to assist them in marketing agricultural produce from their communities, as well as to expand their other income-generating activities (e.g., shea butter processing, livestock rearing and vegetable gardening). Together, these complementary activities will accelerate the achievement of the objectives of the CSAS-GSAP project, which include increasing the income of rural women, and enhancing the security of food and nutrition in rural households.

The CSAS-GSAP partnership operates under the Agricultural Institute of Canada International Twinning Partnership Program, which is funded through the Partnership Branch of the Canadian International Development Agency ([www.aic.ca/international/](http://www.aic.ca/international/)). The Bridges of Hope organization is committed to supporting indigenous organizations and programs that promote poverty relief and community empowerment within the poorest nations of the earth ([www.bridgesofhope.ca](http://www.bridgesofhope.ca)).