

## **CSAS-Ghana Partnership Project Annual Report (April 2006 – March 2007)**

The Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) finally signed the new five-year contribution agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in March 2006. This paved the way for the start of Phase 2 of the CSAS partnership project with the Ghana Society of Animal Production (GSAP). Phase 2 of the project was officially launched in Accra, Ghana on 8 September, 2006 and was attended by all major stakeholders including the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Ghana and the Acting Canadian High Commissioner in Ghana. The CSAS was represented by Dr. Baah who also delivered messages from the CSAS President Dr. Mike Dugan and the AIC President Mr. Sandy Todd on behalf of the CSAS and AIC, respectively.

As in previous years the project continues to provide technical and material assistance to the Ghanaian Society and the women beneficiaries in Northern Ghana. Specific details of material assistance provided to project beneficiaries, activities undertaken by GSAP as well as project achievements during the year may be found on the CSAS website under "Updates and Reports" (follow the link to [http://www.csas.net/nav\\_aic.htm](http://www.csas.net/nav_aic.htm)). The partnership was fortunate to receive \$25,000 from Bridges of Hope, a Canadian-based non-profit humanitarian aid organization to start a rural micro credit project in the communities. One hundred and twenty-one (121) women have so far received loans under the micro credit project with each woman receiving approximately \$140. These loans are being used by the women to expand their other income generating activities including shea butter processing, livestock rearing and vegetable gardening. Together, these complementary activities will accelerate the realization of the objectives of the project.

A number of professional exchanges occurred in 2006 between the CSAS and GSAP representatives. The Ghanaian project coordinator, Dr. Kwame Oppong-Anane traveled to Canada in November to receive the AIC International Partners Award during the 2006 AIC Conference in Winnipeg. The visit also afforded him the opportunity to meet for the first time, the newest member of Canadian Project Coordinating team, Dr. Shannon Scott and the President of AIC. In addition, CIDA provided supplementary budgetary assistance during the latter part of the year to support an expanded south-south exchange between the two AIC-CIDA sponsored projects in Ghana and the Tanzanian project.

Currently there are no obvious problems that would adversely affect the achievement of the objectives of the current phase of the project. I am therefore happy to report that the project is on course and continues to receive very positive comments from AIC and other non-governmental organizations, as well as favorable coverage in the print and electronic media in Ghana.

Submitted by John Baah.