



# Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)

The journey so far  
August 2016

## GOVERNMENT OF GHANA APPLAUDS USAID & US FOREST SERVICE INTERVENTION

The District Chief Executive (DCE) of Jomoro District, Hon. George William Somiah, has on behalf of the Government of Ghana commended USAID/Ghana and the US Forest Service for collaborating to impact the lives of a significant number of farmers in the district through the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP). Mr. Somiah, who recently assumed the highest central government position in the district, made his remarks during a field monitoring visit to two of the five CSLP intervention communities in the district under his jurisdiction; namely Navrongo and Tweakor No1. He was accompanied by the District's Community Development Officer, Mr. Emmanuel Armoo and the CSLP team led by the Director, Dr. Steve Dennison and the Washington, DC based Program Manager, Mr. Adam Welti. Continued on page 3

Featured Stories



From Misperception to Perfection  
Page 2



Farmer embarks on behavioural change campaign - Page 4



The Power of Climate Change Clubs  
Page 5

Check the FAST FACTS ON CSLP

Introducing CSLP Local Champion Page 7

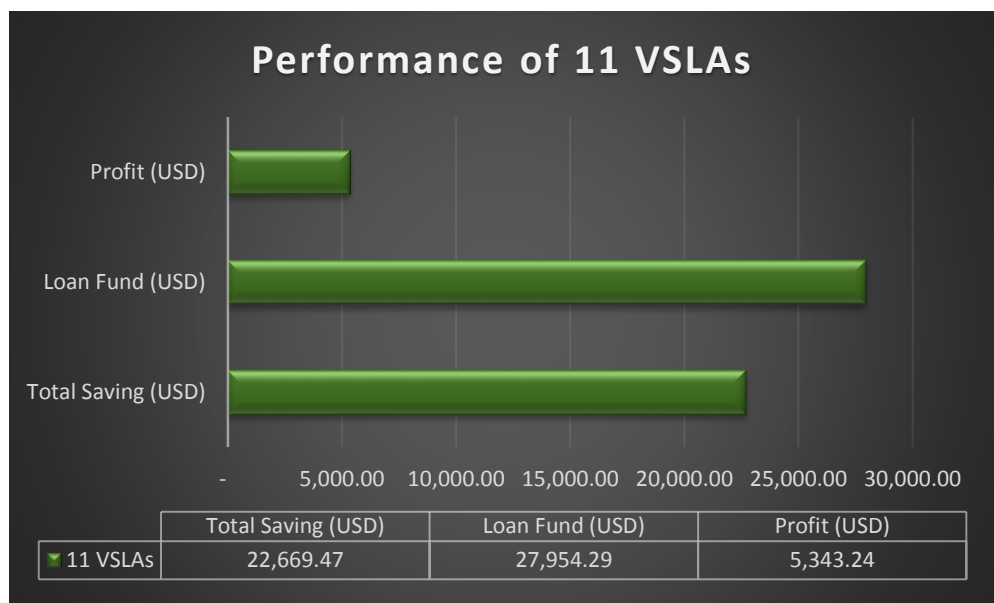
# FROM MISPERCEPTION TO PERFECTION: THE CASE OF FAWOMAN VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Some left the group but the majority stayed. There was confusion all over. “I am leaving the group.” “I am withdrawing all my savings, take your group”. These were some of the reactions of members of the ‘Nyame Nhyira’ Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) at Fawoman in the Jomoro District of Ghana’s Western Region during the early weeks of their group’s establishment. At one point, it took a visit by the entire CSLP team, led by its Washington DC-based Program Manager and an official of the District Assembly to help provide ideas to resolve differences in the group and encourage the group to not give up. Fast forward 9 months later, and it was all smiles and moments of extreme excitement when the group successfully ended their 7-module training cycle and had a share out. As noted by one group member, **“We saved, got loans to improve our farming activities, engaged in petty trading, paid our children’s school fees and still made a huge profit from the group. We thank you (USAID/CSLP). We have not seen this before; we didn’t believe it. God bless you”**. Noting the benefit of the scheme, no member of the group left after their share out, though by their constitution members are free to leave and new members welcomed. In fact, some members called for an increase in their share value for the next cycle. All this, despite the turmoil and challenges the group faced at the outset. The ‘Nyame Nhyira’ group is among 19 VSLAs formed by the USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP). So far, 11 VSLAs have

successfully completed their mandatory training cycle and shared out on the savings and profits made from loans given to group members. The cumulative amount saved by the 11 groups is USD 22, 669, with the lowest return on savings of



12.41% and the highest with 43.35%. In addition to their cumulative loan fund of USD 27, 954, the groups also had a social fund that they used to help members in emergency situations such as deaths, sickness and accidents. Indeed, the Fawoman VLSA story was not different from other groups. Some farmers and fisher folks within the project’s zone of influence elected not to join the savings and loan groups saying, “They (USAID/CSLP) will abscond with our money; they are not different from the other groups”. (continue from page 3)





**GHANA OF GOVERNMENT APPLAUDS  
USAID & US FOREST SERVICE  
INTERVENTION**

(Continued from front page). As part of the trip, the DCE interacted with many CSLP enlisted farmers in both communities, visited several farms and witnessed a share purchase meeting of a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA).

Impressed with the success of the CSLP, the DCE applauded the donor, USAID and the implementing agency, US Forest Service for the efforts.

He was particularly excited about apiary sites managed by women farmers, integration of trees on cocoa farms as shared by enlisted farmers, and the immense financial benefits provided to members of the VSLAs from their accumulated savings and loan activities over the past year.



Mrs. Atsu (left) standing by a tree planted through CSLP support and interacting with the DCE Hon. Somiah (middle) at her cocoa farm. Looking on is CSLP Director, Dr. Dennison.

At the farm of Mrs. Gladys Atsu of Navrongo, the DCE noted, **“...you have been well trained by the CSLP in best farming practices and I will call on you to train other farmers”**. In both communities, the DCE urged the farmers to keep up the great work being done with the CSLP and promised his support to them, where possible. He called on USAID and US Forest Service to increase the number of its intervention communities within the district to help enhance the living standard of other farmers; noting the farmers in other communities would equally benefit from the project interventions.



As a sustainability mechanism, the CSLP has trained 12 community members and District Assembly officials as Village Agents. These agents now have the capacity to facilitate the formation of, and provide mentorship to, VSLAs after the CSLP. In Ghana, too many formal and informal savings and loan institutions have failed to deliver on their promises and have often absconded with clients' savings. The VSLA model supported by the CSLP is stemming that tide and providing immediate economic benefits for its members and their households — all done with the members' own seed funding and management with the CSLP facilitating the module trainings and providing the start-up kits (mainly; cash box, pass books, a calculator and cash sacks).

**FROM MISPERCEPTION TO PERFECTION: THE  
CASE OF FAWOMAN VILLAGE SAVINGS AND  
LOAN ASSOCIATION**

(continued from page 2) This was despite several community sensitizations on the VSLA concept and its linkage to enhancing economic benefits through improved natural resource management practices. Now, many of these formerly reluctant residents are more than eager to join the associations; some having pleaded to join VSLAs that had not yet reached the maximum allowable membership.





# FARMER EMBARKS ON BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE CAMPAIGN

Listowell Adus Medwenlemenwo is a 38-year-old farmer in Adusuazo in the Jomoro District of Ghana's Western Region and actively engaged in the cultivation of vegetables including tomatoes, peppers, and garden eggs.

Prior to the start of the USAID-funded, and US Forest Service managed, Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP), Listowell was farming using large quantities of agrochemicals. He was using herbicides to clear weeds, burning the landscape to clear undergrowth, applying inorganic fertilizers to improve soil fertility and applying pesticides to control pests/disease.

After participating in CSLP trainings on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices, Mr. Adus now manually clears weeds from his farm and has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices across his fields.

He now uses organic pesticides (e.g. chili pepper and garlic) to control pests and diseases and applies organic manure (e.g. cow dung) as fertilizer. Compared to his previous use of agrochemicals, he has observed that it is less expensive to employ the CSA practices. He has integrated over 200 trees in his cash crop farms. Currently, he encourages other vegetable farmers to go the CSA way rather than the input intensive methods he previously used. According to Listowell, if vegetable farmers move toward using CSA practices, they will greatly benefit in the long run. Mr. Adus now actively shares the lessons he is learning with other farmers and is very optimistic more farmers will join him to practice the improved farming practices being promoted by CSLP. In addition, Adus has a secondary forest on his farm that he is reserving for an apiary.



*Adus at his CSA vegetable farm*

He is waiting for the next cycle of beekeeping training and the supply of start-up kits from CSLP to establish his apiary which will have the added benefit of conserving his patch of secondary forest thereby continuing to sequester carbon and reduce rates of deforestation in the Western Region.

Born at Adusuazo, Adus dropped out of senior high school after his father's passing in 1998. He had a car accident in 1998 that made him physically challenged from which he miraculously recovered in 2002. In 2004, he started farming, with a focus on vegetables and has since remained a farmer. Adus has not only inspired the CSLP team with his resilience and commitment to change, he continues to inspire his community members as well. In early December 2015, the CSLP used the occasion of the 31st Farmers' Day celebration in Jomoro District to honor Mr. Listowell Adus Medwenlemenwo as a best organic vegetable farmer under climate smart vegetable production.

# THE POWER OF CLIMATE CHANGE CLUBS

**H**ear the voice of some Ghanaian youth:

***“fishing with dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) is not good, it is bad for the fisheries sector, it is not suitable for human consumption but most fishermen still fish with DDT.***

***“the fishermen are destroying the future of our fisheries; using chemicals to fish means poisoning the fish we eat and destroying the sea”***

***“...the DDT kills even the juvenile fish, like killing young children in a town”***

***“...But we are always consuming fish, what happens to our health and future?”***

***“...such fish when consumed will affect our health but the fishermen seem not to care about us”.***

***“...My Father is a fisherman; I know they use such substances but did not know it was that harmful. Now I know so I will advise him not to use DDT for fishing again”.***

These were some of the comments made by members of Akwidaa Seventh-Day Adventist & Yabiu Methodist Junior High Schools' Climate Change Clubs (CCC) at a Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)-facilitated training in June 2016. Akwidaa is a major fishing community adjacent to significant wetland areas. The CSLP is engaged in this area partially because these wetlands are degraded but have potential to be restored. In addition to working to raise awareness amongst the community such as through the climate change clubs, the project is also working to replant over 12,000 mangrove seedlings and to help develop a local management plan for 208 hectares of these precious mangroves.

the future, are poised to contribute towards addressing such preventable problems.



CCC members on educational tour

Informal discussions by the CSLP staff with a parent and fisherman in the community revealed that he is , ***“...touched and appreciates the concerns of our children and will urge my colleagues to stop such bad practices as the future generation equally needs the resource in a better state”*** (continue from page 7)



Drama by CCC

The students, now more aware of critical environmental issues and the implications for



CSLP backyard garden



News

Ghana celebrates World Environment Day

By Times Reporters

**T**HIS year's World Environment Day was observed in the theme: "Let us go wild for life" last Sunday in the country. The day is celebrated on June 5, each year, to raise awareness about the importance of green environment to human lives, and to give stakeholders the opportunity to discuss ways of addressing environmental challenges.

From Kumasi, Kingley K. Hope reports that a forum was organised to mark the event with a call on Ghanaians to join the crusade to protect the country's forest cover.

Dr Daniel A. Ofori, Director of the Forest Research Institute of Ghana (FRIG) and the National Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-FORIG), observed that the 8.2 million hectares of Ghana's forests had been reduced to 1.8 million hectares as a result of planting close to

water bodies, logging as well as illegal mining. He said annually, about 135,000 hectares of the forest cover are destroyed as a result of negative activities.

Speaking on the topic, "protection of forests and water bodies for sustainable development", Dr Ofori noted that illegal mining, popularly called galamsey, was a major contributor to deforestation and forest degradation in the country.

He pointed out that illegal mining was polluting water bodies thereby resulting in disease, saying if care was not taken Ghana could not ensure availability of water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Dr Ofori said if this persists, we cannot and hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture." He also cautioned that by 2050, the Amazon basin would experience a reduction in species by 21 per cent in the dry season and 12 per cent in the wet season "if the current rate of destruction of tropical forest continues".

Dr Ofori asked stakeholders such as the district assemblies, the Environmental Protection Agency, police and Minerals Commission to work together to protect the environment and water bodies.

Dr Joseph Cobbah, president of the CSIR, College of Science and Technology, urged the public to take tree planting seriously to prevent the deforestation.

**Clement Adzel Boye reports from Konfueku that the day was observed in the Western region with tree planting exercise and exhibition on the environment.**

The event, which was organised by the Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project (CSLP) in collaboration with the Shama District Assembly and the Shama District Education Directorate,



People of Konfueku D/A School carrying placards during the procession

News

W/Region c'nities cautioned against disasters

From Clement Adzel Boye, Shama

**T**HE Director of the Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project (CSLP) Dr Steve Dennison had warned districts in the Western Region, if they fail to manage waste generated in the region.

He noted that increasingly, waste management was a critical issue facing the region, and called for a pragmatic approach to deal with the matter, to avoid flooding and destruction of the environment, which sustained human existence.

Dr Dennison was speaking at a two-day workshop on waste management, organised by CSLP and the Shama Education Directorate, on Wednesday, for 14 teachers selected from public schools in the Shama District to seek ideas from the private and public sector on how to maintain safety in the communities.

The programme also aimed at information sharing, and behavioural change among children, to enable them to become ambassadors of good waste management

in communities and public schools.

He held the participants to protect the environment through effective waste management. Dr Dennison added, "If we do not do something about waste management in this region, it's a disaster."

He said, about 14 years ago, West African countries, particularly Nigeria had faced environmental challenges, noting that Ghana had the chance to avoid the threat of the spread of diseases.

The Director of CSLP cautioned authorities of Western Region, which is endowed with natural resources, but, witnessing the destruction of water bodies and vegetation.

An Environmental Health Officer, Rosemond Ayebea Mantey said poor waste management caused flooding, breeding of insects and wild animals, arguing that poor refuse disposal, low level burning, dumping of effluent from septic tanks into water bodies, defiled natural resources.

Madam Mantey advocated that

natural resources conservation should be an aim of planning and provision for public health.

The way forward in good waste management and environmental protection, she argued, was best practice in public health, engineering, economics and conservation and for public health.

"A city which cannot effectively manage its waste is rarely able to manage more complex issues such as health, education or transportation," she said.

The District Manager of Zoonlim, Mr. Anthony Ofori Aidoo, said waste management should be a collective responsibility.



Dr. Dennison addressing the teachers

CSLP EMPOWERS SHAMA TEACHERS ON CONSERVATION

**From Marvin-James Dadzie, Shama, W/R**  
Teachers and Education Officers in the Shama District of the Western Region are being empowered to champion the conservation of natural resources through improved sanitation management.

A pool of 74 teachers selected from the 37 public schools in the district as well as education officers from the Ghana Education Service Directorate in the district have undergone a two-day training to sharpen their skills on resource conservation and sanitation management.

The training, spearheaded by the Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project (CSLP) and implemented by the United States Forest Service International programmes, is funded by USAID.

It is aimed at fostering behavioural change on sanitation and resource conservation among the youth, using the educational institutions as a pivot to realize this objective.

"It is my wish that from here, you'll go back to your various schools and offices and become good ambassadors of the environment", Steve Dennison, Director of CSLP, told participants at

the training.

He said the Western Region has rich environmental resources which should be protected. Human activities, he said if not checked appropriately, could destroy the region's resources and bring about several environmental adversities to communities.

Citing examples in Nigeria where human activities have derided large portions of the country's natural resources, he said, community leaders should play a lead role in preserving the environment.

The Shama District Environmental Health Officer, Rosemond Ayebea Mantey, who took participants through ways of ensuring proper sanitation, underscored the importance of conservation.

She said if the district could properly deal with waste, it would be able to curb several health and environmental adversities.

For his part Anthony Ofori Aidoo, the Shama District Manager of Zoonlim Ghana Limited, said his outfit would continue to do its part to keep the district clean but added that there was the need for a concerted effort since waste management was a shared responsibility.

NEWS... NEWS... NEWS...  
CSLP Celebrates World Env. Day @ Konfueku

From Marvin-James Dadzie

**Konfueku, Shama District**  
An effort to change the attitude of addressing, climate change issues, the Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project (CSLP) has marked this year's World Environment Day at a vibrant ceremony at Konfueku, in the Shama District of the Western Region.

The celebration was led by students of the Climate Change Club at Konfueku's Senior High School (CHS), one of the two climate change clubs established by CSLP in the Shama District.

Financed by USAID and implemented by the United States Forest Service International Programme, the event sought to raise a sense of environmental conservation in the youth to help curb adverse climate conditions.

The event, which was interspersed with poetry, drama, skits and the planting of trees, stressed the need to protect the environment.

Addressing the gathering, the District Manager of the Ashanti Forest Reserve, Mr. Charles Dakpang said the environment, especially, trees and animals were very critical to human survival.



Dr. Steve Dennison

He said they were encouraged to take their message to their homes and schools to ensure that the environment is protected.

He also addressed climate change issues, stressing that climate change was a global challenge that required collective action. He urged the youth to adopt positive attitudes towards the environment.

The Director, commented CSLP on understanding the challenges it faced in the youth's sense of environmental conservation.

Dr Steve Dennison, Director of CSLP, said the Climate Change Club for the environment and stakeholders. It had shown towards the environment since its formation.

The Power of Climate Change Clubs

(continued from page 5) Illegal fishing methods are among the key problems in the Ghanaian fisheries sector and a major contributor to the decline in fish stock. The situation is widespread particularly among the artisanal fisheries sector. The CSLP believes raising awareness among its Climate Change Club Ambassadors (members of the climate change clubs) is one important means of addressing the problem. The USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed CSLP has helped to form eight clubs to date, with membership of over 600 students. The clubs have been formed in the coastal districts of Ghana's Western Region and are engaged in several behavioural change activities with one of the clubs having won a National Award in December 2015 for its work related to agriculture and the environment.

NEWS... NEWS... NEWS...  
CSLP PROMOTES CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS

From Marvin-James Dadzie, Jomoro, W/R

The Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project (CSLP) is making great strides in the promotion of climate change awareness in remote communities.

This year's celebration, which was on the theme, "Seven Billion Dreams, One Planet, Consume with Care", brought together government officials, chiefs, school children and members of Ashanti communities.

He commended CSLP for considering the community on climate change issues and helping farmers to join the fight against environmental degradation.

and was about how such activities were conducted.

He commended CSLP for considering the community on climate change issues and helping farmers to join the fight against environmental degradation.



Farmers Laud Coastal Sustainable Livelihood Project

From Clement Adzel Boye, Navrongo/Tweaker Number One

**F**ARMERS in Navrongo and Tweaker Number One in the Jomoro District of the Western Region, have commended the Coastal Sustainable Livelihood Project (CSLP), to improve agricultural production and reduce carbon emissions.

According to the organisers of CSLP, the re-afforestation and tree planting programmes, including bee-keeping, were steps to ensure soil security, improve growth and also maintain jobs and incomes of farmers.

The farmers in the two communities made these comments on Tuesday when the new District Chief Executive for Jomoro, Mr. George Somiah, accompanied by a team from CSLP, led by Steve Dennison went on a study tour of the two areas.

The CSLP is a three-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded programme managed by US Forest Service. It is being implemented in six coastal districts of the Western Region. The focus is to lower greenhouse gas emissions and high carbon concentration in the land use sector.

It includes broader and multi-partner food security, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and environmental governance.



Madam Gladys Abu, a cocoa farmer sharing her experience with the DCE for Jomoro, Mr. Somiah with Mr. Dennison listening in.



## Gladys Atsu

### Facts about Gladys

- A farmer and petty trader who didn't receive formal education as a child
- Mother of 6 females aged 9-31 years and 3 other dependants
- Comes from Ghana's Volta Region
- Moved from the Volta Region to Navrongo in Jomoro District 28 years ago
- CSLP enlisted farmer
- Chairperson of *Dzibodi* Village Savings and Loan Association (formed by CSLP)
- Trained by CSLP as a beekeeper and has reserved secondary forest for her apiary
- Integrated over 180 trees on her farm in 2015
- Practicing farmer managed natural regeneration of valuable tree species.
- Promoting climate smart agricultural practices



Pictured is Gladys Atsu (left) and CSLP's Director, Dr. Steve Dennison. Gladys is an active farmer at Navrongo in the Jomoro District of Ghana's Western Region, who has excelled in sustainable landscape management practices. Having participated fully in CSLPs' trainings in agroforestry, enrichment planting, farmer managed natural regeneration, beekeeping, and ecosystem services and livelihoods, among others, she has not relented in her efforts to put lessons learned into practice. Thus far, Mrs. Atsu has integrated more than 180 trees on her farm which includes both cash and food crops. Based on her understanding of climate change and the need for diversified livelihood, she has reserved a secondary forest patch for beekeeping. In addition, she is the Chairperson of the CSLP facilitated *Dzibodi* Village Savings and Loan Association in her community. Mrs. Atsu believes that everyone must help to address the impact of climate change. As she put it,

**"... things are changing and most of them are due to human activities. When I moved from my hometown to Navrongo, farming was good but now the weather pattern has changed and it is affecting us. We must all come together and reverse the situation. We have to plant more trees, avoid indiscriminate cutting of trees, fish without chemicals, use/apply organic pesticides and organic manure; these will help us not to die young"**.

Asked what she feels about CSLP, she said,

**"In fact, you (CSLP) have really helped me; you have empowered me, now, I am a beekeeper, adopted best farming practices and developed greater leadership qualities as a VSLA chairperson. Through the VSLA, I now comfortably pay the school fees of my children and other dependents, have expanded my petty trading and can hire more labour for my farm work"**.

As a beekeeper, she wants her VSLA, which recently had a share out, to start beekeeping in the next few months.

CSLP is proud of Mrs. Gladys Atsu and recently awarded her the best female farmer engaged in improved natural resources management/sustainable landscapes management.



CSLP Manager at a project supported fruit garden site



VSLA Members after a share-out meeting.



CSLP Team at 2016 World Environment Day Celebration

## CSLP FAST FACTS

- Covers 41 communities in 6 coastal districts
- CSLP has within nine months:
  - Reduced the quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by over 4,250,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e
  - Formed 6 new Climate Change Clubs
  - Formed 7 new Village Savings and Loan Associations (22 in total)
  - Enhanced the capacity of 57 state and non-state institution to address climate change issues
  - Spent 11,489 person hours of training in diverse topics on climate change and natural resource management.
  - Formed 14 Climate Smart Agriculture Vegetable Groups
  - Built the capacity of over 100 farmers in beekeeping
  - Formed and empowered 12 wetland conservation management committees
- Avoided possible deforestation in over 200 hectares
- Empowered District Assembly Officials on GIS and remote sensing techniques.
- Initiated urban forestry interventions with government institutions.
- Enhanced private sector contribution to climate change mitigation/adaptation activities.
- Build the capacity of 113 state education officials on waste management
- Enhanced collaboration with GoG Technical Officials and Traditional Authorities

Stories produced by Richard Adupong. Edited by Dr. Steve Dennison and Adam Welti.

Layout & Design by Richard Adupong



Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)  
Implemented by US Forest Service International Programs

Plot 18, Quarshigah Avenue, Anaji-Takoradi. Near Morning Glory School  
Tel: +233 (0) 31 229 7824 Email: csip.info@gmail.com  
P. O. Box MC 3407 Takoradi, Ghana

