

Scaling up



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PROGRAM NEWS - Ghana

Coalition for Building Sustainable Agriculture: Champions for Change Networks set the pace!

Five Champions for Change Network member organizations set the ball rolling by holding planning and kick off meetings between March and May 2015, in Tamale, Dodowa, Koforidua and Accra respectively. The Network is an alliance of agricultural organizations, including the Agricultural Advisory Services Network, Ghana Livestock Development Network, Agricultural Financing Network, Women in Agribusiness Network and the Youth in Agribusiness.

The purpose of this alliance is to exchange information, to transfer knowledge, and to provide mutual support and collaboration; creating a positive synergy within the sector to contribute to its growth. During this period, each member network developed a statement of objective, vision, mission, and goal to assure a unified understanding and continued guidance in carrying out activities. The member networks are committed to the development of longer-term strategies to strengthen non-state actors (NSAs) to improve or increase food security.

These Champions employ leadership training and techniques gained from participating in Africa Lead training modules to mobilize their communities to contribute positively to Africa's food security landscape.



Internship Program on Leadership Development Launched during the Agribusiness Investment Summit 2015

April 29, 2015 marked the second annual Ghana Agribusiness Investment Summit. The purpose of the summit was to facilitate education and unlock agricultural investment potentials in Ghana. Organized by USAID - Financing Ghanaian Agriculture Project (USAID- FinGAP), the summit was endorsed by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Honorable Dr. Ahmed Yakubu Alhassan and attended by over 300 representatives of small, medium and large enterprises, business advisory service providers and financial institutions.

During the summit, Africa Lead launched its Agribusiness Leadership Internship Program, which seeks to connect various actors to opportunities within the industry. The forum initiated 12 youth and women Champions who had undergone a competitive application process into the business-to-business component of the summit.

According to Toni Mpoy, Africa Lead's Grants & Internship Manager, "our mentoring support is intended to help the interns put their best foot forward and learn how to successfully network and create contacts." Once selected, the interns received coaching to develop their



Africa Lead Grants & Internship Manager, Ms. Toni Mpoy



Africa Lead Youth Champion interacting with an agribusiness representative at the summit

communication and presentation skills to start conversations and sustain opportunities.

The group was encouraged to seek opportunities from the various organizations in attendance. Some of the interns shared their experience:

"Participating in the summit was a golden learning and networking opportunity offered to us by Africa Lead to meet with great minds in Ghana's Agribusiness Sector. It also gave us the opportunity as Champions to network with fellow champions from other parts of Ghana," explained Bernard Adjei.

Sedem Kumahor, a young yam agro-processing start-up entrepreneur affirmed that, "attending the summit paid off; I was able to secure a meeting with the head of Barclay's Bank Agribusiness Desk and MEL Consult to introduce my small business concept. I was also invited to TMI consulting to learn more about equity financing opportunities."

Having successfully placed about 70 interns with varying levels of experience in agriculture-oriented companies, Africa Lead is spearheading leadership development and internship placement. Africa Lead is now leveraging this success to scale up the program across the African continent, making such alliances between established businesses and new agricultural leaders a more commonplace across the value chain.



2015 Agricultural Joint Sector Review (JSR)

Ghana held its eight annual agricultural Joint Sector Review (JSR) in Accra on Tuesday June 16 2015. Over 100 government officials, non-governmental organizations and private sector representatives convened to address the development of the agricultural sector in Ghana. The meeting included stakeholders in the agricultural sector such as staff of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), Development Partners (DPs), other Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as key players in the private sector and civil society. During the weeklong meeting, stakeholders reviewed achievements in the sector in the preceding year, remaining key implementation challenges, and progress against strategic reform priorities.

Honorable Fifi Kwetey, Ghana's Minister of Food and Agriculture proclaimed that, "the Ministry of Food and Agriculture have the responsibility as the lead Government agency to convene this review; it is the joint responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure the success of the review." He reminded participants that Ghana has achieved the target of food security, thereby halving the number of hungry people in advance of the 2015 deadline. He added that, "though this is a laudable achievement, pockets of food insecurity still



"Ghana must substantially increase agricultural productivity and generate values that keep up with demand for food, industry, trade etc. We must also work hard to lift up the northern regions and other pockets that are lagging behind," said the Minister.

exist all over the country. Unfortunately, as the country's population increases, the nation's natural resources, including land, water and biodiversity will not increase, but rather trends indicate that they are rapidly deteriorating. This degradation means that more must be achieved each passing year to feed the growing population. Ghana must substantially increase agricultural productivity and generate values that keep up with demand for food, industry, trade etc. We must also work hard to lift up the northern regions and other pockets that are lagging behind," said the Minister.

Hon. Kwetey called for "more collaboration with our partners in implementing various projects, including Ghana Commercial Agriculture Project (GCAP), Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP) and Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP) to ensure that our production and productivity levels are enhanced." Africa Lead will continue facilitate the collaboration efforts to ensure mutually accountable framework to determine and evaluate observed results of sector performance and intended results.





Food Across Borders Program Launched

A new program known as Food Across Borders Program (ProFAB), aimed at eliminating barriers to cross-border trade in staple foods and increasing food security within West Africa, was launched in June 2015. The ProFAB, aims to increase food security in West Africa by focusing on ensuring the improvement of public policies, increasing information on regional trade and strengthening the voice of private sector and regional organizations.

ProFAB was developed to make it easier for farmers and business people to complete the transactions necessary to move food across borders, while increasing the volume, value and speed of food movements, making it easier for the private sector to invest, and increase market place efficiency.

The program, which is a cooperative effort supported by the USAID, ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), will be implemented by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel or CILSS, but coordinated and facilitated by a special unit based at Hub Rural.

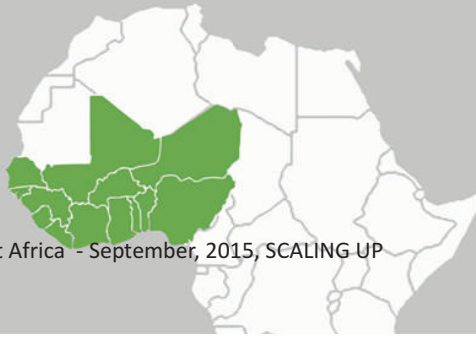
In an opening speech, Honorable Gene Cretz, the United States Ambassador to Ghana, explained that the institution of the program, was based on the recommendations of an ECOWAS forum held in January 2013, which called for the need to draw attention to the crucial role that regional trade plays in West Africa's food security to ensure the long-term resilience of West Africa's 365 million residents.

Ambassador Cretz said the U.S. Government was proud to support the move towards achieving effective African regional integration saying, "we know the main barriers to cross-border trade include constraints

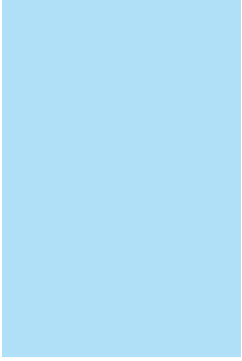
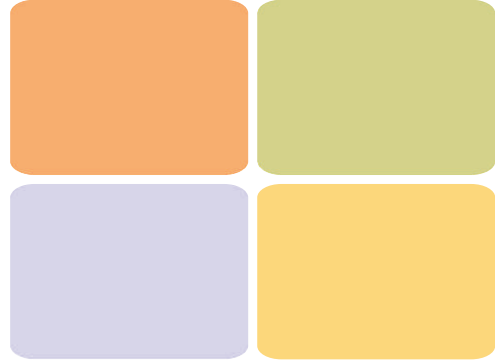
such as road harassment, export restrictions, certificates of origin, veterinary certificates and value added taxes on foodstuffs, and the often cumbersome procedures at the border posts themselves". The ProFAB will, therefore, accelerate the harmonization and implementation of ECOWAS economic policies that remove trade barriers by advancing the implementation of ECOWAS trade policies.

Dr Lapodini Marc Atouga, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, noted that the West African economy was steadily growing and many regional policies supported and encouraged ECOWAS nations to work together to maintain a strong, sustainable and peaceful regional economic community.

To this effect Africa Lead continue to provide leadership capacity to ProFAB to ensure its sustainability.



West Africa - September, 2015, SCALING UP



REGIONAL

High Level Forum on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)

Bamako, Mali

West African agricultural stakeholders met in Bamako, Mali from June 15-18, 2015. The meeting was convened by The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in collaboration with the West Africa Monetary Union (UEMOA / WAEMU) and Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to launch a High Level Forum of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA).

Approximately two hundred and seventy representatives of the 17 member states of the ECOWAS and the Sahel including the Ministers of Agriculture and the Ministers of Environment attended the four-day event.

Also in attendance were from the Ministries in charge of agriculture (National Agricultural Investment Plan), climate change-National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) / United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Integrated Water Resources



Management (IWRM Action Plan), key stakeholders from regional integration organizations, basin organizations, scientific and technical organizations, and agriculture related socio-professional organizations, civil society and private sector organizations, NGOs and donor partners.

Ten years after signing on to the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) of the African Union, West Africa is now the leading African sub-region in the implementation of the CAADP. In 2005, the ECOWAS Heads of States adopted the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP), as an instrument for the coordination of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the agricultural component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), within the region. The CAADP was established as part of the African Union in July 2003 and focuses on improving and promoting agriculture across Africa.

As part of renewing their commitment to agricultural development by 2025 within the framework of the Maputo+10 Declaration and the CAADP+10 process, ECOWAS and its member states have expressed a strong commitment to promote a CSA in West Africa.

The forum was organized with support from Le Hub Rural, USAID, and African Social Development Index (ASDI), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Africa Lead and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) respectively.



Rice Value Chain Conference in West Africa Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Regional Framework of Consultations of Rice Producers Organization (ROPPA) convened eighty participant stakeholder networks and professionals in the rice value chain and development partners at an International Conference held in April 2015 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Organized by Africa Lead, the objective was to create a platform for multi-stakeholder exchanges as well as provide practical solutions to issues related to development of value chains and financing of rice to strengthen the institutions. Stakeholders also made proposals to promote greater investment in regional value chains, to improve on the various mechanisms and audit initiatives regarding the public-private partnership to generate more growth, reduce poverty and increase food security in the region.

In his speech, Bagna Djibo, President of ROPPA praised the partners for their commitment and interest in the rice sectors. He also thanked the ROPPA Commissioner of Agriculture of UEMOA and the Burkinabe Minister of Agriculture for their continued support to ROPPA and its national platforms.



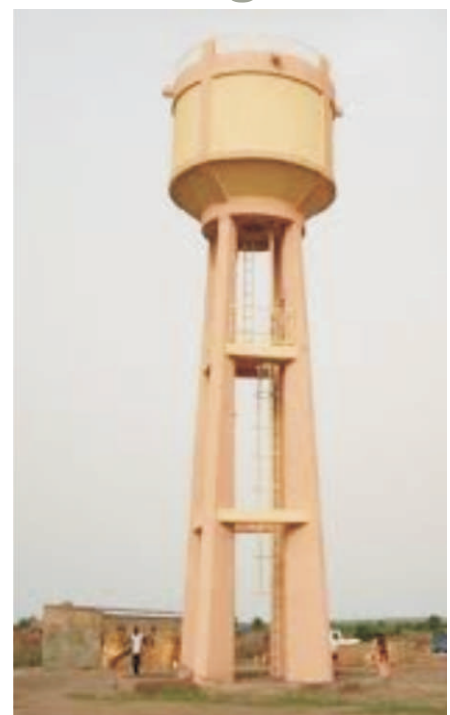
Strategic Development and Team Building Workshops

OFOR- Office des Forages Ruraux Saly, Senegal

Office of Rural Boreholes (OFOr) is a Senegalese Government initiative to create an autonomous public management structure of rural water infrastructure. This structure replaces the Directorate of Operations and Maintenance (DEM), with the aim of involving the private sector in the maintenance and production of water in rural areas.

The reform was initiated by the Senegalese government to create the right conditions for adequate and sustainable access to water for the rural Senegalese population at reasonable prices.

“Senegal is committed to establishing an institutional framework to ensure the quality of the water in the rural areas” says Minister of Water and Sanitation, Pape Diouf.



On March 19-20 March 2015, the Office of Rural Boreholes (OFOR) organized a Strategic Development Workshop and Team Building workshop for twenty seven (27) participants in Saly. These participants were key members of staff of the Directorate General in Dakar, Regional Directors of Hydraulics of North, Central, and Southern Senegal.

The strategic development and team building workshop made it possible for the major players in OFOR to get together and reflect on the vision and mission of OFOR. The workshop encouraged participants to take ownership of OFOR and build a cohesive team which will be responsible for efficient and professional management of rural water and power supply systems to ensure the quality, accessibility and sustainability of the service for the people in the Northern, Central and Southern areas of Senegal.

BOS-Bureau Opérationnel de Suivi

President H.E Macky Sall in recognition of the need for economic reform, announced the creation of the Bureau Operational de Suivi or BOS Monitoring and Evaluation arm of the Senegal Emerging Plan (PSE), in February 2014. The Senegalese Government recognizes



Monitoring and Evaluation as a key tool for organizational learning and to ensure that the requirement of PSE indicators are being reached.

BOS therefore, plays a key role in achieving the flagship projects and reforms envisioned by the president in the PSE. As part of capacity building program for key personnel involved in the reforms, BOS convened a two day Strategic Development and Leadership workshop facilitated by Africa Lead in April, 2015 for twenty three (23) of its key personnel.

The PSE is a major economic reform program that aims to position Senegal by 2023, as a regional economic and infrastructure hub in agro-industry, energy, construction, logistics, mining, road and railroad transportation, tourism and services, with the private sector as a key partner to realizing that vision. The program intends to engage the country in a sustainable dynamic momentum, led by strong and inclusive growth, job creation and the preservation of the country's environment and natural resources.

Africa Lead utilised various tools to enhance the teams capabilities in executing its program which includes monitoring and evaluation of projects and reforms in the PSE.



NSA Mapping and Malabo Declaration Sensitization workshop

Tanzania

Africa Lead participated in the NSA mapping workshop that was held in Tanzania from July 20 to 24, 2015. The meeting brought together about 64 participants to share key concepts of mapping, conduct a mapping exercise, and gather feedback on an engagement strategy.

The outcome of the meeting was the development of a database of mapped out organizations that were registered into the NSA platform to facilitate cooperation and dissemination of information by the CAADP NSA Coalition (CNC).

It will also be used to select strategic partners and pathways in realization of the CAADP and the Malabo declaration.

Presentations were made on the need to promote CAADP and Malabo to organize country-level actors who will support relevant initiatives in line with local, national, regional, and continental-level priorities.

Country-level coalitions were encouraged to conduct coordinated advocacy work toward the achievement of CAADP, while facilitating mutual accountability by reporting the

aggregated NSA commitments toward CAADP at all levels and orienting NSA action toward initiatives that support CAADP results.

Participants were further encouraged to promote research that will inform evidence-based agricultural and food security policies, and build capacity among NSAs in respective countries.

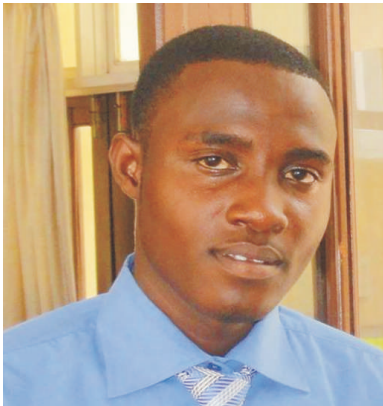
It was emphasized that CAADP is African-led and African-owned and represents African leaders' collective vision for agriculture in the continent. To date, fifty out of fifty-four countries in Africa are using the CAADP structure in agricultural planning. The benefits of the initiative were identified to include:

- Increased visibility with NSA peers, government actors, donors, and others
- Knowledge of other actors in the agriculture and food security ecosystem
- Ability to see the gaps and opportunities to collaborate toward common goals

Participants developed action plans geared towards sustaining the NSA mapping. Follow up meetings will be organized after six months to assess the impact of the program while the mapping is replicated in Uganda, Ghana, Senegal and other countries.



CHAMPIONS CORNER!



Moses Baffour Awuah

workshops for Senior High School graduates in an NGO he founded in 2012 known as Youth Arise Organization.

He was recently elected as the President of the African Youth Network for Agricultural Transformation (AYNAT), Champions for Change youth network with a common goal of contributing their quota to transforming agriculture and scaling up food security not only in

“I never for a single moment thought I will be a rapporteur for conferences because I felt writing reports was difficult. After the Africa Lead report writing course, opportunities came up for me to be a rapporteur for conferences and the training I received aided me in this assignment.”

Moses Baffour Awuah, a managing partner of Optimum Partners in Accra, Ghana says his personal development has taken on a new meaning after participating in two Africa Lead Champions for Change short courses in 2014; report writing course for MoFA Staff and the Champions for Change leadership in agriculture course.

“I have become a more assertive, strategic thinker and planner, and more result oriented” and “I now write good reports and was even able to serve as a rapporteur for the Draft National Gender Validation workshop held in Accra last year”.

After attending two short courses, Moses has been able to impart the knowledge and experience acquired by organizing three



Linda Adjei

“My Story- it all started with the Champions for Change Leadership in Agriculture Course...”

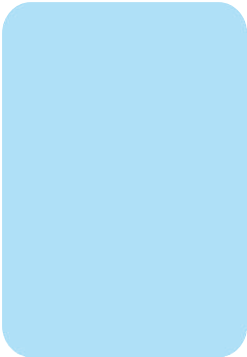
I am Linda Adjei, a graduate of the Agricultural Engineering Department, University of Ghana. I read science at High School hoping to become a doctor and so wasn't enthused about my admission into the Agricultural Engineering Program. My parents convinced me to take the offer. Needless to say I failed my first year after which I sought council. My biased perception of agriculture changed significantly afterwards.

During the course of my study, I took an entrepreneurship course, which was being run on campus by Dr. Olivia Kwapong a lecturer, who recommended me for the Champions for Change Leadership in Agriculture Training course in September 2014. I was challenged to act, to be a champion of change in so many ways.

During the training I came up with an innovative idea to advocate, create awareness and through demonstrational farming make agriculture appealing to all especially to women and the youth.

After the program, I was so inspired that I passed on the new knowledge I acquired to both my colleagues and students at my department where I worked as a Teaching Assistant. I also networked with my fellow champions to apply for the Building Capacity for African Agricultural Transformation Program by Africa Lead II. We formed the African Youth Network for Agricultural Transformation (AYNAT) organization, which was adopted by Africa Lead. Currently, I am the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for the Network.





Greetings from HR!

Building your own capacity!

As our project continues to scale up and build upon our program, we should also be thinking of ways to build our own capacity! For those of you who have graduated from school, and are searching for a new opportunity and even looking for an opportunity with Africa Lead, here are a few resume and interviewing tips to give you a head start!

Your resume is the first representation of your skills and abilities. With all of the competition you're contending with, you want to make sure that you stand out from the rest and not eliminating your candidacy for common errors and mistakes:

Resume and Interview Do's and Don'ts:

- Do use spell check, make sure there are no spelling or grammatical errors on your resume.
- Do update your resume with relevant positions, volunteer activities - It provides the employer useful information about your background and experience.
- Do show up to your interviews on time and dress appropriately!
- Do make yourself as available as possible to your interviewers, lack of flexibility with your availability shows lack of enthusiasm and indifference—another sure way of getting eliminated!
- Do follow up with a thank you note to your interviewers.
- Don't provide a false representation of your education, skills and abilities. (Employers do verify all of the information on your CV and lying is a sure way to get eliminated!)
- Don't fill up your resume with unnecessary information just to make it longer. Employers know this tactic and it's another way to get your resume to the bottom of the pile!
- Don't check in too often and follow the prospective employer's lead and application process.
- Don't assume you've been offered a position without further confirmation or instruction from the prospective employer.

We believe these tips will help land you an interview or a new opportunity. The rest is up to you!

Strengthening Institutions

The West Africa office conducted a six-month follow-up survey to assess the application of the knowledge and skills acquired from the Results Based Management/Monitoring & Evaluation/ Report Writing Training, organized for implementing partners of CORAF/WECARD. The goal of these training programs was to improve the organizational effectiveness of CORAF/WECARD and the West Africa Seed Program by strengthening the capacity of staff to develop, implement, and evaluate policies and programs that will improve agricultural productivity and food security in the West Africa Region.

The six-month follow-up feedback survey included a variety of questions on the relevance of the training to the work of the participants and application of the course knowledge and skills including knowledge transfer. Other questions centered on the achievements and challenges encountered in applying the knowledge and skills and additional needs to improve performance. Nearly all the respondents reported they had applied the knowledge and skills in the six months following the training. This response is indicative of the training program's success.

Participants also reported that they have shared their knowledge and skills from the training with their colleagues, using different methods such as organizing group sessions, sharing handouts/lecture notes, organizing debriefing/feedback sessions, and on-the-job ongoing exchanges with colleagues. This occurrence suggests that there was a multiplier effect of the training.

The survey further provided Africa Lead the opportunity to obtain information on further capacity needs of the respondents. This will be beneficial to Africa Lead in our provision of further capacity building support to the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development, CORAF. Africa Lead aims to share the results from its training programs and will be conducting other beneficiary surveys to beneficiaries of other training programs.



Nugggets of Wisdom



1. Agriculture is the central element of economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa [True or False]
2. What is the main tool for the attainment of food security and alleviation of hunger on the continent?
3. When were the African Food and Nutrition Security Day launched?
4. What is CAADP?
5. 2014 was the AU's "Year of Agriculture and Food Security", what is the AU's theme for 2015?

[See answers at the back of newsletter]

"Food Security Quotes"

"We need to strengthen research for efficiently produced, healthy food, while ensuring the availability of food at affordable prices. This includes improving logistics, infrastructure, and transportation systems to ensure those who need food are supplied with it."

– Paul Buckle, CEO of Nestle

Adopting and promoting sustainable production practices require concerted effort, something that in practice is too often missing or insufficient. Making this shift at the scale required demands forward-looking leadership in the public and private sectors alike."

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator



Riddles

1. I am a yellow fruit with three of the letter "A" in my name. I have a lot of potassium to help your muscles work better. I am tough on the outside and soft on the inside. What am I?
2. I am a tropical fruit. I am many different colors on the outside. To say my name, say the opposite of "WOMAN" and then say the opposite of "STOP." What am I?
3. What did the nut say when it sneezed?
4. What do you give to a sick lemon?
5. What day do potatoes hate the most?

[See answers at the back of newsletter]

Did you know

In 2003 African heads of state met in Mozambique and pledged to allocate 10 per cent of their national budget to agriculture by 2008. To date, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Senegal have exceeded this target and most countries have made significant progress towards this goal

Find your answers here!

Quiz.

1. True
2. Agriculture
3. October 2010
4. (The) [Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme](#) (CAADP) was established as part of the African Union in July 2003 and focuses on improving and promoting agriculture across Africa.
5. “Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063”

RIDDLE 1: [Banana]

RIDDLE 2: [Mango]

RIDDLE 3: [Cashew]

RIDDLE 4: [Lemon-aid (Lemonade)]

RIDDLE 5: [Fry-day (Friday)]



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