



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

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VIEWPOINT

The rains have begun throughout the three regions of the north, which means it's time to plant! In collaboration with its implementing partners, the ATT Project has prepared for the 2015 cropping season. In this edition stories on various project site visits by delegations from USAID and IFDC and a report on our farmer-to-farmer exchange program, among other stories from this reporting period. Enjoy!

Mike

Project Welcomes New COP



Mike Dockrey, New COP of the Project

This quarter, the Feed the Future Ghana Agriculture Technology Transfer Project welcomed its new Chief of Party, Michael Dockrey, to Tamale.

Mr. Dockrey has more than 30 years of experience in the fields of international development, emergency humanitarian and natural disaster response program planning and implementation management, food security and climate smart agriculture program development and management, private sector crop production and food processing/marketing, commodities value chain analysis and development and public

sector community health program management. Dockrey also has broad representation and technical consulting experience at the country and regional levels, in Africa, MENA and Asia. This is his third time in Ghana, but his first as a long-term project manager. Please join us in welcoming him aboard the project.

One Hundred Women Farmers Get Multi-Crop Planters



A total of 100 women farmers in the Upper West Region of Ghana have received multi-crop planters to help lessen the difficulty involved in the traditional method of planting they have been practicing for years.

Each multi-crop planter costs 275 Ghana cedis, with the Feed the Future Ghana Agriculture Technology Transfer Project absorbing 70 percent of the cost and the remaining 30 percent paid by the women farmers.

Mr. Andy Karas, USAID Acting Mission Director, presented the planters to the women farmers in Wa, noting that agriculture was the biggest focus of Feed the Future, the United States government's global hunger and Food security initiative. Karas said USAID is always searching for new and innovative



science and technology initiatives to help improve-agricultural productivity in the savannah zone, and commended the private sector's partnership with USAID in achieving its objectives.

According to Mike Dockrey, focus is placed on women because they are the backbone of agriculture in the area, and the play a crucial role in the welfare of families.



Alhaji Abdulai Antiku Seidu, Managing Director of Antika Company Limited, the supplier of the multi-crop planters, thanked the project and USAID for engaging his company, noting that the mission and vision had positively impacted smallholder and commercial farmers in the region. "These are some of the innovations that are gradually changing the primitive method of farming inherited from our ancestors," he said.

IFDC President and Chief Executive Officer Interacts with Farmers in Botanga



The project welcomed Dr. Amit Roy, President and Chief Executive Officer of IFDC, to the Tamale office in June.

He used the opportunity to encourage staff to continue to work diligently to impact the lives of farmers. As part of the visit, Roy visited the Savanna Agriculture Research Institute (SARI), Nyankpala, to familiarize himself with researchers and some research fields of that institution.

Roy also visited the Botanga Irrigation Scheme to observe some of the urea deep placement (UDP) technology learning centers, which were established by

farmers under the supervision of the project's technical team. Amit interacted and took pictures with farmers and urged them to apply UDP to get high yields.

One farmer, Mr. Siedu Alhassan, 56, revealed that he secretly applied more fertilizer to his broadcast field to match up with the growth of the nearby learning center's UDP field, but it failed.

"I see your method is good so I will apply it in the next season because I can see the grains are big, and the rice plants are very green and look healthier," he said.

Rice Farmers in Botanga Receive Power Tillers

Rice farmers at the Botanga Irrigation Scheme in the Kumbungu District of the Northern Region of Ghana have been supported with power tillers to boost rice production and encourage mechanized agriculture.

Each of 16 farmers received a set of power tilling equipment and accessories under the Feed the Future Ghana Agriculture Technology Transfer Project's small equipment grant component. Each farmer contributed 30 percent, while the project absorbed 70 percent of the total cost.

Michael Dockrey, representatives from the Economic Growth Office of USAID, led by Samson Konlan, Food Security Specialist presented the equipment at a colorful ceremony in Botanga, urging beneficiaries to support other farmers with the equipment.

Dockrey explained that the power tillers



have accessories, including reapers, which will help reduce time and labor cost in rice production and increase yields, reduce poverty and ensure food security.



Mr. Konlan, Food Security Specialist of the Economic Growth Office, advised the farmers to put the equipment to good use and added that the benefit could only be realized if they adopt the good agricultural practices being introduced together with the equipment.

Alhaji Mahama Bawa, Chief of Vogu and a member of the Council of State, thanked

the project for the support urged farmers to embrace the improved farming practices being introduced. "I had the opportunity to apply some of the improved technologies, line planting and UDP, and the results were very encouraging."

Ghanaian Rice Farmers Learn from Burkinabé Counterparts

As part of preparations towards upscaling urea deep placement (UDP) technology, head farmers from the four major irrigation schemes of Northern Ghana had the opportunity to learn good agricultural practices in lowland rice production from their Burkinabé counterparts.



The participants who took part in the farmer-to-farmer exchange program were from Tono and Veia in the Upper East and Botanga as well as Golinga in the Northern Region.

UDP technology and other practices were introduced to farmers simultaneously through demonstrations and learning centers established during the previous dry seasons by the Feed the Future Ghana Agriculture Technology Transfer Project.

After a one-on-one interaction with farmers and active participation in the field work at Bama and Di Irrigation Schemes, the visiting farmers were motivated and challenged to give equal attention to leveling, which helps in water management, line transplanting to attain



the right crop population and weeding in order to increase yields.

"The use of draught power for land preparation and leveling by the host farmers was an eye-opener for us because I learned that, in the absence of tractors, I can carry out the activities through other means," said, Ayine Justice Atoribisco, a rice farmer from the Veia Irrigation Scheme.

He also observed that it was important for farmers to be organized into farmer based organizations (FBO) and cooperatives to enhance the efficiency of farm activities, such as procurement of inputs, land preparation and marketing of agricultural produce.

Lydia Akazagse, a female rice farmer from Korania, Tono, said the absence of a UDP applicator for larger scale rice farms creates a very good job opportunity for the youth, especially women, to be trained to undertake transplanting and UDP application as a service to farmers at a cost, thus becoming a source of income and increased employment.

The Ghanaian farmers planned to identify and mentor, under the supervision of the project partners, 20 farmers who did not participate in the learning session. They plan to pass on the knowledge gained on proper land preparation, line transplanting and applying UDP technology.

"The message I am taking home is that we need to be better at organizing effective

FBOs for us to succeed in rice production and our farming work. I am sure with the good practices learned from Ghana and our Burkinabé colleagues on UDP technology, we can produce even higher yields than what we see this season," said Chief James Adawine of Tono Irrigation Scheme.

From Brian to Tara

Rising from Deputy Chief of Party/ Grants Manager to Acting Chief of Party, **Brian Kiger** provided leadership and guidance to staff toward a shared goal of improving the livelihoods of farmers in the north.



Brian Kiger Former Acting COP, DCOP and Grants Manager



Tara Wood, New DCOP

As a team player, he represented the project at the national and international level. He maintained relations with the investor, national government agencies and relevant national and international organizations; managing the project team, operations and grants team, and directly worked with the technical support team

comprised of national and international experts.

He is currently the Country Director, of International Development Enterprises with the responsibility for every aspect of the organization's program, activities, include: overall resource generation (fund mobilization) for iDE Ghana programs; financial management and accountability; project accountability, to individual donors/investors, public identity in Ghana. The project family miss, you, and, wish you well in all your future endeavors.

Originally from East Peoria, Illinois, **Dr. Tara Wood** attended a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II College in Iowa on a double soccer/basketball scholarship. Later, she graduated from Eureka College in Eureka, Illinois, with a degree in Environmental Science and minors in Biology, Philosophy and Religion. Wood went on to receive her Master's in Entomology from the University of Arkansas in 2009.

In 2010, Wood enrolled in the University of Nebraska Doctor of Plant Health (DPH) Program as a Syngenta-FEAE Industry and USDA-NIFA National Needs Fellowship Recipient and, in 2013, became the first in the world to receive a DPH. degree.

Currently, she is the Deputy Chief of Party for the Feed the Future Ghana Agriculture Technology Transfer Project. In 2012, Wood had an internship as a Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer in which she spent three months in northern Ghana and supervised training and demonstration of good agronomic practices, strengthened environmental compliance, monitored crop health, composed numerous reports and fact sheets, and provided recommendations to improve crop health and other value chain constraints.

Other New Staff-

Blessing Kemakolam has over eight years of experience with Chemonics

International Inc administering grants and subcontracts to rural Nigerian farmers' groups and firms in selected commodities. As the Grants and Subcontracts fund (GSF) manager for the USAID/MARKETS II project in Nigeria, she managed a \$10 million Fund that cut across seven commodity value chains in 19 Nigerian states. She is currently managing a \$6 million grants Fund for the Feed the Future Ghana Agriculture Technology Transfer Project. Kemakolam is a Fellow of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountant, Nigeria. She holds a first degree in Accounting from the Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa and has undergone much trainings.

Mr Michael Mawusi Kweku DOGOR, holds a Master of Philosophy degree in Crop Science from the University of Ghana, Legon, and has experience in the agriculture value chain. He served as a teaching assistant in the Agronomy Department of University for Development Studies and also worked at Masara N'Arziki Farmers Association as a Technical Officer. Dogor is one of the new Agronomist for the project stationed in Wa, Upper East Region

Salamatu Agmaloooyong Nuhu, has experience in community mobilization, rural enterprise development, research, data collection, analysis and presentation, media relations, child and women's rights issues. She worked with several organizations including, PAWLA, University for Development Studies, SNV, SEND-GHANA, (I) NTACT Germany and CAPECS on short and temporal engagements. Nuhu holds Bachelor of Arts degree in Development Studies from the University for Development Studies.

The project also welcomed **Clara Neafin**, as the new Administrative Assistant. She graduated from the University for Development Studies with a Bachelor's Degree in Integrated Business Studies and has worked with organizations

including SAVE-Ghana. She hails from Kaleo in the Upper West Region.

Akemo-Mamudu Rasheed Ignatius has joined the project with over eight years of work experience in various aspects of research, community mobilization. He has worked with CSIR on the CIDA funded RESULT and ADVANCE project. Ignatius holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrated Development Studies and a Master of Science degree in Development Management from the University for Development Studies.

Vida Obeng, is joining the project's Monitoring and Evaluation team with her previous experience at the AngloGold Ashanti Malaria Control Limited as a district Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator of Health, Safety and Environment role. She holds a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Biochemistry from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.



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