



FEED THE FUTURE

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

April 2017

A Bi-Annual Newsletter of the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)

CSLP EMPOWERS FARMERS TO HARVEST OVER 10-YEAR OLD COLONIZED BEEHIVE

The **USAID**-funded Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP) has supported farmers to successfully harvest a colonized beehive after 14 years of being abandoned in a half hectare secondary forest. The hive was established by a farmer, Kwesi Nyamekye with support from a Dutchman, Allan Van Abros in 1998 at Krobo in the Shama District of Ghana's Western Region. Due to inadequate equipment and know-how, it was left in the forest after harvesting in 2003 by Abros. According to the farmers, the agreement with Abros was for the farmers to provide land space for the hives and be paid some money after harvesting. This informal arrangement received community support and 30 hives were established in farmlands (mainly woodlots) of fifteen farmers. Unfortunately, the dreams were dashed as Allan passed away in 2003 and that marked the beginning of the collapse of the enterprise. Due to the fact that the apiaries were no longer managed, most of them were lost to bushfires and termites. Later, the Non-Formal Education Unit of the District Assembly provided basic beekeeping training but that did not help the farmers to fully manage their apiaries because they did

not have the necessary protective clothing and equipment. Eventually, all the hives were destroyed by termites and bush fires except one. The hive, with an active honeybee colony, was not harvested thereafter as none of the farmers had the appropriate tools and protective clothing to undertake the rather risky activity. In late 2014, the CSLP identified the apiary as an untapped potential for a win-win sustainable livelihood activity. **(Continued on page 3)**



CSLP Specialist, Kwame Appiah Owusu (middle), demonstrates simple honey bottling (packaging) to beekeepers in Krobo

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Check the **FAST FACTS** on **CSLP**



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FEMALE FARMERS TAKE LEAD IN CLIMATE SMART VEGETABLE PRODUCTION IN GHANA'S COASTAL COMMUNITIES



Left: A farmer at her organic vegetable farm



Right: Harvested organic vegetables from Fawoman community

Zenabu Ibrahim, a local restaurant operator in Kamgbunli, a coastal community in Ellembelle District of Ghana's Western Region, noted

“ I prefer buying eggplant from a CSLP enlisted farmer because I can store the eggplant for more than one month and it remains fresh and in a good state. I learned that no agrochemical is added during the production period. In fact, soup prepared from the eggplant is tasty ”

The reaction from Ms. Ibrahim is not different from other Ghanaians; most people prefer organic products but farmers find it difficult to produce due to several factors. However, with the environmentally friendly agricultural practices being advanced by the Feed the Future Ghana Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP), managed by the US Forest Service, admirers of organic products have applauded the project and farmers are beginning to gain the economic benefits.

The CSLP has facilitated the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices by 150 farmers in the project's geographic zone of influence. Among the key environmentally friendly agricultural practices currently adopted by the farmers are the use of improved seeds, the application of organic fertilizers and the reduction in use of agrochemicals to control pests and diseases. A farmer at Ayawora, Mrs. Comfort Obeng, emphasized that

“ ...with the hands-on trainings from the CSLP, I have stopped the slash and burn method of farming and now allow the cleared weeds to rot to serve as mulch for my vegetables ”

The CSLP has led the establishment of 14 CSA vegetable enterprise groups with most groups chaired and dominated by hardworking female farmers. For the first time in the history of their farming practices, members of 10 groups recently purchased improved and certified seeds worth US \$482 from private seeds vendors. Hitherto, the farmers used their own old seeds that often transferred diseases from the parent plant to the offspring. The enterprise groups have been linked to local markets, and in the just ended 2015/2016 farming season, one group made total sales worth US\$ 9,113. These groups are also organizing themselves to benefit from the organic vegetable supply networks that service Ghana's oil and gas sector in the six coastal districts of the Western Region to reach even more markets for sale

The photos below are some organic vegetables currently being supported by the CSLP.

Question: Can you identify the various crops?



CSLP EMPOWERS FARMERS TO HARVEST OVER 10-YEAR OLD COLONIZED BEEHIVE

(Continued from page 1)

Between 2015 and March 2017 the CSLP built the capacity of nine interested farmers in the community as active beekeepers and supported them in establishing their own apiaries. With hands-on trainings and coaching, the project provided start-up materials such as beehives, beehive stands, bee wax (attractant) and protective clothing (bee suits with attached veil and gloves). This effort also resulted in the successful harvest of honey from the 14-year old Kenyan top-bar hive. The harvested and processed honey is currently selling at US\$10 per litre in Shama District. This has not only generated excitement

among others in the community but also enhanced motivation among farmers to reconsider beekeeping as a viable, additional livelihood. Additionally, it is an important climate change mitigation activity as it helps to avoid deforestation and encourages sustainable management of woodlots. The US Forest Service-managed CSLP has supported over 230 farmers in the six coastal districts of Ghana's Western Region in the setting up of apiaries and continues to promote the activity in its geographic areas of operation.

Answers to Questions on Page 2

Photos from left to right

- Lettuce
- Okra
- Pepper
- Eggplant

Photos from CSLP activities



Top: Climate Change Club (CCC) members of Komfueku D/A Junior High School on an awareness creation procession.
Down: Mangrove replanting exercise

SOME RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Training on gender and environment for 58 female teachers
- Formation of new Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and share out sessions by existing groups
- Rapid assessment of additional livelihood options
- Training on urban forestry for students and government officials
- Video presentations (at night) on wetlands and mangroves
- Production of video documentary on VSLA (collaboration with USAID/RING Project)
- Food security trainings for food crop farmers
- Honey harvesting refresher trainings
- Piloting wetland monitoring program with Junior High Schools

CLOSE TO 2,000 STUDENTS PROMOTE PROPER SANITATION IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

A total of 1,910 students, comprising 932 boys and 978 girls in 36 public schools in Shama district of Ghana's Western Region have committed themselves to helping tackle insanitary conditions that breed diseases and cause injuries in their communities. This was a result of the Feed the Future Ghana Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project's (CSLP) follow-on monitoring activities as part of a Trainer of Trainers (ToT) organized in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service (GES) for 74 teachers.

The students, led by their teachers, and actively supported by officials of the education unit, are championing the promotion of proper sanitation conditions through effective behavioral change campaigns; especially clean-up exercises and peer education.

Students in the coastal communities are advocating for open defecation-free practices at the beaches and surrounding areas. They are raising awareness amongst communities on the negative linkages between such deviant behavior and the outbreak of diseases. In addition, they are helping their families and neighbors to realize that such practices impact the incomes of their parents as monies that could otherwise be spent on their studies are rather used in the treatment of preventable diseases.

Sanitation challenges are not unique to the Western Region but have become a focal point for national action. Due to

the poor sanitation conditions in Ghana, the first Saturday of every month has been earmarked as National Sanitation Day.

The day, declared in 2014 by the Government of Ghana, through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, was in response to cholera outbreaks in the country in 2014. All residents mark it with a

One of their key messages is the use of the 3Rs:

**REDUCE,
REUSE
and
RECYCLE.**

nationwide clean-up exercise. A bill currently before parliament is soon to be approved and will ensure that individuals and groups who refuse to join the activities on the day are duly prosecuted.

The US Forest Service-managed CSLP has Climate Change Clubs (CCCs) in selected junior high schools within the project's zone of influence and members serve as climate change ambassadors. Clean up exercises are among the frequent activities of the school clubs and are meant to help reduce unsanitary conditions.

The CSLP recognizes the need for proper sanitation as a national duty call and continue to support the involvement and contribution of youth groups in reaching their families and neighbors to increase awareness



Climate change club members clearing weeds in a community during one of their clean up exercises

Art works by
CSLP-sponsored
Climate change club at Aduzuazo
Junior High School in Jomoro District.



The CSLP & VSLAs

(The Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project and the Village Savings and Loan Associations)

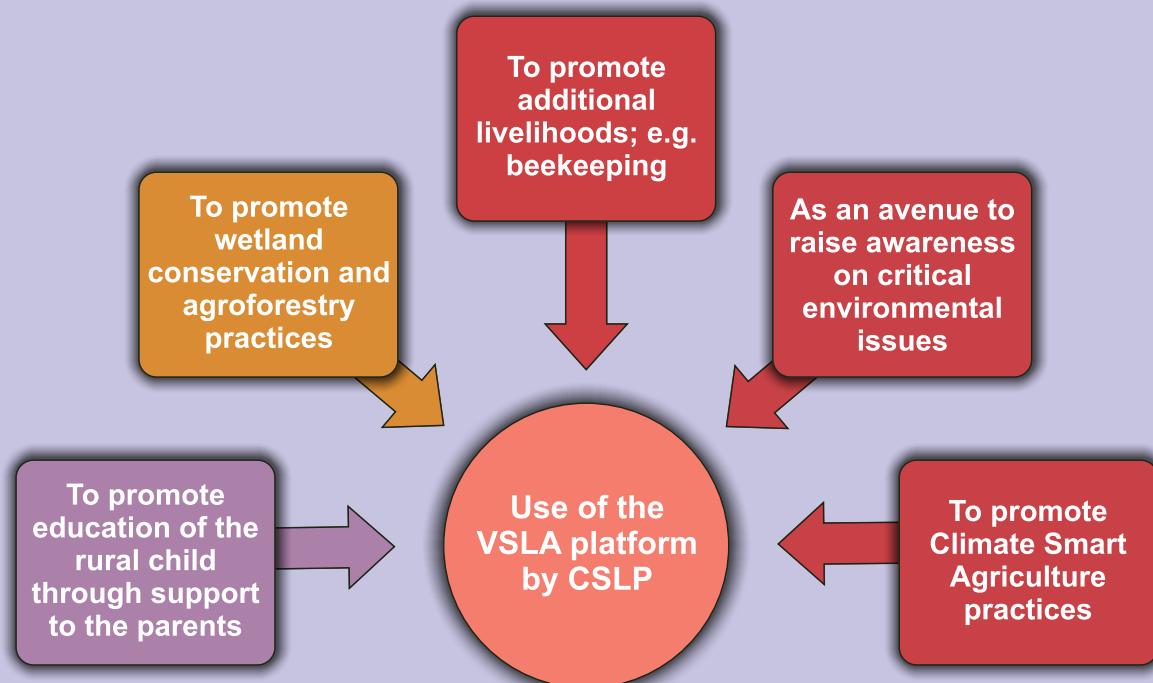
VSLA is a member/community managed group of 15-25 people who save together and take small loans from those savings. Each member has a passbook for the recording of share purchases (savings) and loans. The VSLA normally also establishes a social fund to be used for grants when members are in distress due to unforeseen circumstances.

The **USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)** being implemented in Ghana's Western Region has, as of March 2017:

- * Formed 31 VSLAs in 5 coastal districts with 754 members
- * 65% of members are women and seven groups are chaired by women
- * The average household size of members is 4 people
- * 24 VSLAs have completed the first cycle of share-out with a 99% loan repayment rate; nine successful second cycle share-outs have been recorded
- * Trained 12 community members and 4 district assembly officials as VSLA Village Agents
- * Conducted record keeping trainings for 23 associations
- * Had discussions with selected 5 rural banks / micro finance institutions on bank linkages

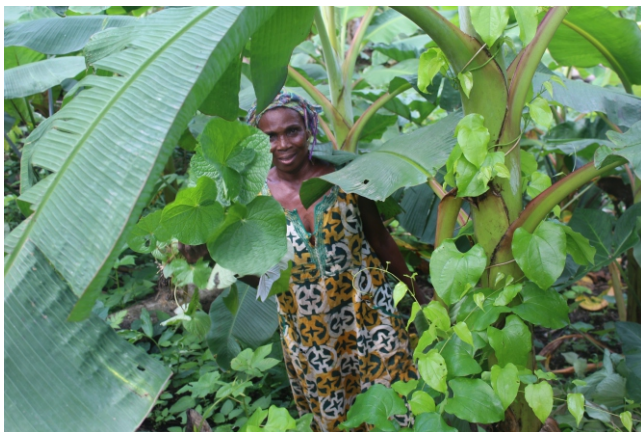
Others:

- * One VSLA won a Government of Ghana award at the 31st Farmers Day Celebration in 2015
- * Built the capacity of our sub grantee (Hen Mpoano) to form 5 VSLAs in Greater Amanzule Wetland Areas
- * Conducted refresher trainings for Village Agents and District Assembly officials



CSLP FAST FACTS

- + Originally a 3 year project (2013-2016)
- + Extended to September 2019 due to success achieved in the first phase
- + Covers over 61 communities in 6 coastal districts
- + Has 31 Village Savings and Loan Associations with 754 members with 65% being women
- + Has 12 school clubs that promote environmental education
- + Has 14 Climate Smart Agriculture Vegetable Groups with over 150 members
- + Continues to facilitate the avoidance of deforestation through the promotion of apiary (beekeeping) in secondary forest patches
- + Built the capacity of 58 female teachers on environmental issues
- + Co-facilitated the first VSLA Summit by USAID/Ghana
- + Partnered with UKaid-funded Western Region Coastal Foundation to scale up climate change awareness trainings and livelihood options such as catfish production and vegetable farming
- + Deepened collaboration with Government of Ghana technical agencies, Traditional Authorities and the private sector
- + Supported wetland/mangrove restoration efforts by local communities, NGOs and the Wildlife Division of Forestry Commission
- + Facilitated urban greeneries in schools
- + Enhanced the economic benefits of over 600 farmers through appropriate agricultural and livelihood support activities
- + Collaborate and cooperate with four other USAID projects to better leverage opportunities and share experiences and lessons



CSLP farmer, Comfort Obeng, at her climate smart agricultural food crop farm.



USAID/Ghana team on a monitoring visit to CSLP-supported agroforestry site

April 2017

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