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NSAICU facilitates 13th and 14th NASWG meetings in Tamale

NSAICU organized the 13th and 14th Northern Agriculture Sector Working Group (NASWG) meetings on the 16th of February 2017 and 30th of May 2017 respectively in Tamale. The meetings attracted a number of private sector actors including representatives from Masara N'Aziki and Avnash Industries.

At the 13th and 14th meetings there were presentations on the following:

- Update on 'Planting for Food and Jobs' by the Northern Regional Director of Agriculture
- Summary Close-up report by the Project Coordinator of the Rice Sector Support Project)
- Shinkaafa Buni – The Model, Opportunities, Challenges & Way Forward for the Rice Industry in NSEZ
- Summary Close-up report by the Project Coordinator of the Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP) –
- Technical Presentation on FALL ARMY WORM (FAW) by Northern Regional Officer, PPRSD)
- A report on the training of AEAs on Fall Army Worm by AD-VANCE II) information.



A cross-section of participants listening to presentation at the 13th NASWG meeting in Tamale

Information Shared and Action Points from the 13th and 14th NASWG Meetings

- Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) to stakeholders hinges on five(5) Pillars as follows:
- Access to extension services by all farmers
- Availability of improved seeds to farmers
- Access to reliable market
- Availability of fertilizers
- A Strengthened e-agriculture platform



Mr. Christopher Akai, PPRSD Officer In-Charge of Northern Region with representatives of seven MMDAs

NSAICU in collaboration with SADA facilitates Joint District Stakeholders' Fora on Fall Army Worm (FAW)

North.

The forum was to sensitize stakeholders, particularly AEAs and farmers on how to identify the FAW on crops and possible remedial actions that could be undertaken.

NSAICU in collaboration with SADA organized and facilitated a joint district agricultural sector stakeholders' forum on Fall Army Worm (FAW) in the Northern, Upper-East and Upper-West regions from the 31st of May to 13th of June 2017.

Participants were well informed and educated on basic identification techniques as well as management and control measures.

This was done in district clusters across the three regions of the

It was expected that participants would become ambassadors of the eradication of FAW in their respective districts and communities.



Technical presentation by Mr. Kwasi Wih, PPRSD Officer, Wa

Headline story Continues...

Expected outcome will be the creation of an estimated 750,000 jobs along the value chains.

Suggestions from members: PFJ should support local seed production and usage

Other contributions:

- Promote the use of cover crops as a means of improving soil fertility management.
- District Value Chain Communities (DVCCs) setup by NRGP should be supported by the various MMDA's as a mechanism to strengthen the numerous FBOs established in the communities. Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP) should continue to work with these structures and not start new structures
- On FAW, members were encouraged to sensitize farmers more on identification of the pest. Late detection may lead to disastrous consequences such as total loss of crop if farmers' anxiety is more on acquiring chemicals to get rid of the pest as against early detection.



A symbolic ribbon cutting at the Pre-Season to open the exhibition session

NASTAG and AFGRI in collaboration with FtF/USAID/ATT Hold 7th Annual Northern Ghana Pre-Season Planning and Networking Forum in Tamale

The annual Pre-Season event continue to receive high patronage from both the private and government sector through their keen participation and financial support.

On March 30, the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG), with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the U.S. government Feed the Future Initiative, held nearly 900 maize, rice and soybean value chain stakeholders at the 7th Annual Northern Ghana Pre-Season Planning and Networking Forum.

The objective of the event was to forge partnerships and establish

market linkages for the upcoming 2017 planting season. Under the theme, “Northern Ghana – Open for Agribusiness Investment,” the annual gathering brought together farmers, processors, transporters, seed producers and companies, agro-input dealers, farm equipment vendors, farm business services providers, and financial institutions from across Ghana.

The event featured an exhibition of production and processing equipment, irrigation technology, improved seed varieties, and weather information delivery tools.

Mr. Steven Hendrix, USAID/Ghana Deputy Mission Director United States said the event was an im-

portant forum for catalyzing agriculture-led economic growth adding that hundreds of Ghanaian agribusinesses has been linked to local and international markets and fostered partnerships between farmers and agribusinesses.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony on the theme; “Northern Ghana – Open for Agribusiness Investment, the Northern Regional Minister, Salifu Saaed challenged the beneficiaries to be the hope to farmers and prove to the development partners especially USAID that the investment in the seed sector will be a benefit to all farmers.



Stocks of Milled rice packaged and ready for the market

NSAICU organizes Stakeholder Joint-Field visit to AV-NASH Rice Industry in Nyankpala

NSAICU in collaboration with SADA on the 28th of April 2017 organized a one-day Joint-Field visit to AV-NASH Rice Industry in Nyankpala for members of the Northern Agriculture Sector Working Group (NASWG).

The purpose of the field visit was to familiarize with the operations of the factory and for members to get to understand opportunities available in the rice value chain with the establishment of the state of the art rice milling plant in the Northern region. In all, twenty-two (22) members participated in the field trip.

- Poor quality/volumes of grains, energy challeng-

es and lack of market for the finished product (milled rice in various grades and packages)

- Low level of appreciation of the importance of quality grains if AV-NASH is to efficiently compete internationally to help reduce the country's import bill on rice.
- Facilitating the operations of a farmer based wing (Shinkaafa Buni) to improve the volume and quality of grains to the industry. This is at great cost and will support a discussion with development partners in the rice chain to chart a course towards achieving high quality grains at appreciable volumes.



The MD of ICOUR making a point on misuse of chemicals

NSAICU facilitates 3rd Upper East Agricultural Sector Working Group (UEASWG) Meeting in Bolgatanga

The Upper-East Region Department of Agriculture held its 3rd UEASWG meeting on the 28th of March 2017 at the SSNIT Conference Hall in Bolgatanga in collaboration with SADA and facilitated by NSAICU. The meeting brought to-

gether a total of fifty-two (52) Development/Implementing Partners (DPs) and stakeholders in the agricultural sector in the region.

Participants appreciated the updates presented by the Project Representatives from ADVANCE, ATT as well as RSSP, which was presented by the Crops Officer in the Regional Department of Agriculture.

Upcoming Activities for Fourth Quarter, July – September, 2017

- * Soya Beans Stakeholders' Forum in Upper West Region
- * Operations and Policy sub-groups meetings
- * ASWG meeting in Accra
- * Update data on agric investments of stakeholders in NSEZ
- * Continue to map out and update on all potential donors, private sector players, and NGOs within the NSEZ
- * Update NSAICU website
- * Stakeholders workshop for input into SADA Master Plan and a Livestock Concept
- * Operations Sub-group meeting in Accra
- * ASWG meeting in Accra
- * 4th UEASWG Meeting in Bolgatanga
- * Joint field monitoring visits for Agric. Sector Stakeholders in the Upper East and Upper West Regions
- * Operations Sub-group meeting in Accra
- * ASWG meeting in Accra
- * Facilitate district fora in Upper-West region
- * Maize stakeholders' meeting in the Upper-East Region
- * Rice stakeholder meeting
- * 4th UWASWG meeting in Wa
- * NSAICU website
- * Staff training to be facilitated on USAID Rules and Regulations under USAID Cooperative Agreement
- * Continue to map out and update on all potential donors, private sector players, and NGOs within the NSEZ
- * Publish quarterly newsletter
- * Quarterly and Annual reporting