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AGRICULTURE GOVERNANCE, RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (AGREE) ACTIVITY

FY20 Annual Report

October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020



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FY20 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AAP	Annual Action Plan
AEA	Agricultural Extension Agent
AGREE	Agriculture Governance, Resilience and Economic Empowerment Activity
AMELP	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
BMP	Branding and Marking Plan
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CWC	Citizen watchdog committees
DA	District Assembly
DAGI	District Agricultural Governance Index
DASGOP	District Agriculture Sector Governance Platform
DCRC	Dagbon Constitutional Review Committee
DISEC	District Security Council
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
DTC	Dagbon Traditional Council
EWRS	Early Warning and Response System
FY	Fiscal Year
GoG	Government of Ghana
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
L3F	Livelihood Fund for Family Farming
MIS	Management Information Systems
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assembly
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NGGP	Northern Ghana Governance Project
NRPC	Northern Regional Peace Council
PAS	Presbyterian Agriculture Services
PFJ	Planting for Food and Jobs
PSA	Private Sector Actors
PwD	People With Disability
RASGOP	Regional Agriculture Sector Governance Platform
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
REGSEC	Regional Security Council
RPC	Regional Peace Council
RRI	Rapid Response Initiative
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WANEP-Ghana	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, Ghana
WAP	Women in Agriculture Platform
WRFMC	WAP Revolving Fund Management Committees
W-GDP	Women's Global Development and Prosperity
WIAD	Women in Agriculture Development
WISH	Women in Shea

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the period October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 (Fiscal Year-FY20), the Agriculture Governance, Resilience and Economic Empowerment (AGREE) Activity experienced unprecedented change, as the project responded to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by significant changes in the project's scope and period of performance. Notwithstanding the changes, AGREE Activity recorded significant achievements during the period.

COVID-19 cases were first reported in Ghana in March 2020. Following lock-down and social distancing directives from the President of the Republic of Ghana, many AGREE field-based activities were placed on hold. Activities which were not field-based continued with little or no disruption. The team used the opportunity to develop AGREE technical materials (success stories and technical approaches), and used technology to carry out engagements remotely which would ordinarily be conducted in-person. As of the time of this report, many government restrictions had been lifted and many AGREE activities resumed, with new COVID-19 safety measures in place.

In late August 2020, the project title was changed from Northern Ghana Governance Project (NGGP) to *Agriculture Governance, Resilience and Economic Empowerment (AGREE) Activity*. The title change was necessary to reflect the expanded scope of the project. Building on five years of achievements in agriculture governance, responsiveness and conflict mitigation, the project was expanded to include Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Women in Shea (WISH) Initiative, and the COVID-19 Response Initiative. In addition to the expanded scope, the project was granted an extension through February 2026. Following scope expansion, AGREE has three initiatives, with the following goals:

1. **Agriculture Governance Initiative:** Strengthened responsive governance for improved agriculture development. This continues with the original NGGP mandate.
2. **W-GDP WISH Initiative:** Improved women's opportunities and economic empowerment for sustained supply of shea in the East Gonja District, in northern Ghana.
3. **COVID-19 Response Initiative:** Engage diverse stakeholders to reach 20,000 persons, to support and promote a "Whole of Community Approach" to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and prevent COVID-19 conflicts in northern Ghana.

Key results

The local government institutions (District Assemblies) accepted the District Agricultural Governance Index (DAGI), an initiative of the project, as the primary tool for assessing government's responsiveness to agriculture at the district level. Twenty-eight districts used the DAGI to assess their performance for the 2017 and 2018 calendar years. The verified results show a 44.4% increase in the number of districts that were responsive in agricultural service delivery moving from five in 2017 to nine in 2018. The project districts have adopted the District Agricultural Sector Governance Platform (DASGOP) as the primary avenue for promoting sector coordination and accountability between government agencies and citizens. Ten districts have included funding for DASGOP activities in their 2021 agricultural sector annual action plan and budget. This initiative purports to sustain regular engagements between citizens and the local government authorities on agriculture beyond the project. In addition, seventeen districts constituted separate agricultural sub-committees to promote government accountability, improved delivery of agricultural services and advocate for increased investment in the sector at the district level. This followed project-supported advocacy and engagements between citizens and their local governments.

The project facilitated community sensitizations on 18 radio stations across 258 communities, which enhanced the knowledge and awareness of an estimated 147,625 smallholder farmers, educating them on fall armyworm management; urging greater acceptance and participation in the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) program; and educating on COVID-19 safety protocols. Provisional data from six project districts show a 25% increase in PFJ women beneficiaries from 11,093 in 2019 to 14,731 in the 2020 season. Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) deliberately targeted and supported 354 persons with disabilities (PwDs) and Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) beneficiaries with fertilizer and seed under the PFJ program. The project also noticed increased responsiveness to citizens' demands, evidenced by positive actions taken on 68 percent of citizens' budget inputs made into the 2020 MMDA budgets.

AGREE built the capacity of over 150 Women in Agriculture Platforms (WAP) Revolving Fund Management Committees (WRFMC) members in 30 MMDAs on the management of revolving funds. The committees in the Upper West and Upper East regions assessed grant applications from close to 200 groups and disbursed grants to 90 successful groups who have invested the money into income generating and livelihood activities to improve their living conditions.

During the period, five DASGOPs received training on alternate dispute resolution (ADR) and conflict mediation. Post-training assessments revealed the training resulted in strengthened stakeholder collaboration and improved conflict management at the local levels. In collaboration with their DASGOPs, two districts established committees to support efforts to formalize community land-use procedures. These are mandated to draft bye-laws for approval by the assemblies. Bye-laws seek to streamline land acquisition protocols and also engender harmony in cattle herder-crop farmer relationships. Under the Rapid Response Initiative (RRI), the Northern Regional Peace Council (NRPC) carried out diplomatic engagements with stakeholders in Dagbon, Chereponi and Saboba Districts to mediate, negotiate and facilitate amicable conflict decision making for peaceful outcomes. It strengthened local capacities for peace-building and conflict resolution. These interventions helped to support peaceful co-existence in the Dagbon traditional area and the affected districts.

The project team has documented key project approaches, results and impact in formats such as case studies and technical briefs. Overall, 11 case studies and four technical briefs were developed to illustrate progress made in the four thematic areas. These materials will institutionalize memory of project approaches and improve stakeholders' awareness of project impact.

Following the modification of AGREE's Cooperative Agreement, the project will engage new partners to roll out COVID-19 response and WGDP-WISH activities to run alongside the governance initiative from FY21. The monitoring and evaluation plans, branding and marking guidelines and gender action plan were modified to reflect the expanded project scope.

1.0. INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the interventions and accomplishments of the USAID supported AGREE Activity for FY20. AGREE Activity is comprised of three initiatives: Agriculture Governance, COVID-19 Response, and Women in Shea (WISH). To carry out the Agriculture Governance Initiative, CARE leads a consortium which includes ActionAid Ghana, SEND Ghana, and West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP). CARE also leads the COVID-19 Initiative in collaboration with WANEP. The WISH Initiative is implemented through an innovative public-private partnership which combines the coordinated efforts of CARE, Mars Inc., Livelihood Fund for Family Farming (L3F), AAK and Presbyterian Agricultural Services (PAS). AGREE Activity initiatives span 31 districts in five regions of northern Ghana (North, North East, Savannah, Upper East and Upper West).

Goals for each initiative

The Governance Initiative	The COVID-19 Response Initiative	The W-GDP WISH Initiative
Strengthened responsive governance for improved agriculture development.	Engage diverse stakeholders to reach 20,000 persons, to support and promote a "Whole of Community Approach" to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 conflict in northern Ghana and other identified COVID-19 Hot Spots.	Improved women's opportunities and economic empowerment for sustained supply of shea in East Gonja.

USAID modified the cooperative agreement with CARE at the end of the fiscal year. At the time this report was being written, start-up activities were underway for the COVID-19 Response and WISH initiatives, and field activities had not commenced. This report therefore begins with background information on the two new initiatives – COVID-19 Response and Women in Shea, followed by a more in-depth annual update on the Agriculture Governance Initiative. This report also covers the project's crosscutting activities such as monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, communications.

2.0. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

REFLECTIONS ON PROGRAMMATIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN FY20

The FY20 was marred by the emergence of the novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic in March 2020, prompting the project to put some activities on hold in order to comply with directives of government of Ghana, regarding partial lockdowns and ban on social gatherings.

Following the announcement of COVID-19 cases in Ghana, the project developed and submitted a COVID-19 Response Strategy to USAID, which proposed adjustments to the previously approved FY20 work plan, and offer alternative approaches to project delivery. Recommendations included placing a hold field activities which ordinarily would involve gatherings, such as trainings, workshops, multi-stakeholder platform meetings, field-based sensitizations and community level engagements. Other recommendations included the use of more radio (in place of in-field community sensitization), and mobile vans to reach communities.

To ensure business continuity, the project adopted teleworking modalities using technology options to ensure optimal productivity and accountability for staff time. The team reviewed its work plans focusing on key activities that do not require public gatherings.

Earlier in the same year, the project revised its indicators and targets based on the shift from Feed the Future to Global Food Security Strategy. Some data required validation from field-based monitoring for reporting. However, regulations on social distancing and public gathering hindered the collection of such data. As a consequence, the project could not immediately report on the new indicators. AGREE had to use alternative methods to validate data to assess improved management practices of organizations and individuals supported by USG to adopt improved management practices among others.

The COVID-19 outbreak also impacted the project's ability to reach some indicator targets. Key activities that were affected which contribute directly to the indicator on reach are Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) sensitization, Women in Agriculture Platforms (WAPs) quarterly meetings, Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Actors Platforms (CSO/PSA) engagements, and District Agriculture Sector Governance Platform (DASGOP) meetings. Thus, the target of reaching 50,000 from direct project implementation became a challenge.

Following the development of the project COVID-19 Response Strategy, the project undertook a COVID-19 Rapid Impact Assessment to take consider more broadly the impact of the pandemic on project activities and work plans; and community, stakeholders and partners.

COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

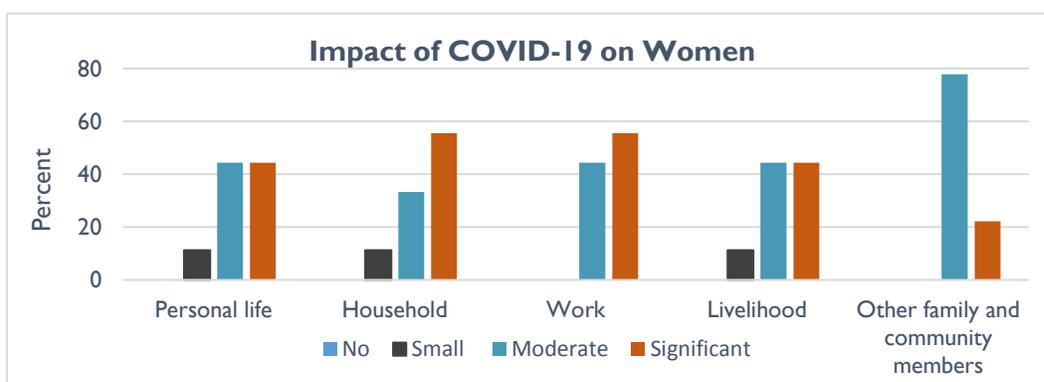
The Rapid Impact Assessment was carried out through surveys, key informant interviews and discussions with diverse stakeholders including government officials, CSOs, private sector actors (PSAs), Women in Agriculture Platforms (WAPs), and peace actors across AGREE operational area. The assessment revealed

the majority of respondents had a fair knowledge about COVID-19, and expected the disease to have a significant impact on their work, livelihoods and income. Respondents shared challenges including reduced earnings, job losses within families, and increasing dependency.

Impact of COVID-19 on Women

The assessment revealed that COVID-19 had an almost immediate impact on the livelihoods of majority of the women interviewed. Women reported that COVID-19 has a “significant” effect on their work (55.6%), household (55.5%), and personal life (44.4%). The report further revealed a “moderate” impact on other family members and relations of 77.8% of the women. In a rural economy where most people rely on family members for support in difficult times, any disruption in individual or household income has the potential to materially impact the safety systems, resilience and coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable persons in a community.

Figure 1: Impact of COVID-19 on women.



Source: AGREE COVID-19 Rapid Assessment

The women surveyed indicated COVID-19 and related directives from the government disrupted their livelihood activities, particularly farming and marketing, thereby created a ripple effect on household income and food security. An executive member of the Bongo district women platform (WAP) stated:

“We no longer process shea. Income to our group members has reduced. We have almost come to a standstill since production has ceased. Even as WAPs, we cannot discuss anything, meanwhile the (farming) season is approaching. We cannot take advantage of this year’s opportunities from Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ). Our work and engagement with the department of agriculture will retrogress”

The low income, according to the women, was affecting food security, nutrition, and health at the household level. The fear of being infected by the coronavirus, according to the women, was also limiting access to health care, potentially prompting women to resort to self-medication.

Notwithstanding the many new obstacles to meeting, the project encourage the WAPs to use online messaging platforms and telephone calls to share information on agriculture and COVID-19 and, engage local government authorities and traditional authorities on improved service delivery to women.

Engagements with women groups revealed a troubling trend of women being increasingly more vulnerable - as personal and household incomes declined, costs of food was increasing, and women's social support systems were undermined by bans on gatherings and distancing guidelines. Financial challenges were impacting the women's ability to save and contribute to their Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLAs), "Susus" and AGREE-supported Revolving Loan Programs. Engagement with CSO/PSAs revealed challenges of maintaining communication and cohesion because of the inability to meet regularly, or host meetings with officials of government. Limitations on gatherings was negatively impacting CSO's ability to engage in advocacy which is vital to ensuring accountability, and responsiveness at the local level. An overwhelming majority of survey respondents believe COVID-19 is likely to trigger tension and conflict in the community (77%) and likely to undermine ongoing efforts to sustain peace in northern Ghana (83%).

With plans already in place to provide direct support to women From this feedback, the project increased the grants to the women's revolving fund by 50.66 percent to commence measures to dampen near-term financial and livelihood shocks of COVID-19. The grant program has proven success in prior periods, and once again offers the opportunity to further strengthen the women financial liquidity and resilience.

Impact of COVID-19 on AGREE-facilitated Platforms

The District Agriculture Sector Governance Platform (DASGOP), Regional Agriculture Sector Governance Platform (RASGOP), WAPs and CSOs/PSAs platforms could not hold their quarterly meetings due to the restrictions on public gatherings. During the period, this undermined agricultural sector coordination and demand for accountability and improved services. To mitigate the challenge, the project supported the platforms to use zoom virtual meeting facilities and WhatsApp to engage and hold meetings. This engendered the continuous sharing of agricultural information and opportunities from government and among beneficiaries.

The CSOs/PSA platform used virtual teleconferencing platforms to hold their quarterly meetings, collate citizen inputs into 2021 national and district budgets, and track implementation of government plans and budgets. The increased use of technology allowed project activities to move forward. In the process community groups gained additional capacity as they learned to use technology to continue their routine meetings and engagements. The project also supported the district department of agriculture to use radio and information van to sensitize farmers and disseminate information and opportunities on the PFJ program and other government agricultural initiatives.

The rapid assessment also provided valuable insights which informed the Concept Note design for the COVID-19 Response Initiative. The wide-reaching impact of COVID-19 in a short period of time, revealed quickly the need to have a "Whole of Community Approach to Combatting COVID-19". These lessons formed the foundations of the proposal which culminated in USAID award to CARE to manage the COVID-19 Response Initiative, a US\$1.5m intervention spanning two years. The intervention, which will be implemented by CARE in partnership with WANEP, seeks to reach 20,000 people with messages to present the spread of COVID-19, and mitigate the potential impact of COVID-19 on efforts to sustain peace in northern Ghana. The activity will carry our messaging campaigns at the community level through community-led activities in partnership with CSOs, WAPs, and other diverse stakeholders.

At the time this report was being written, CARE was developing the COVID-19 Initiative sub-agreement for WANEP, and updating the Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (AMELP), Branding and Marking Plan (BMP) and Gender Action Plans to include new COVID-19 activities. COVID-19 field activities will commence in the next quarter (Q1 of Y21).

WOMEN IN SHEA (WISH) INITIATIVE

During the period, CARE participated in a co-creation exercise with Mars Inc., Livelihoods Fund for Family Farming (L3F), AAK and Presbyterian Agriculture Services (PAS) to design an initiative which will promote a sustained supply of shea in the East Gonja district, and lead to improved opportunities and economic empowerment for women shea farmers in East Gonja. Following the creation of the Concept Note, the partners submitted a full Technical Application, which resulted in the USAID award to CARE to implement the initiative.

The project will be implemented by CARE in tandem with Mars' strategic partners: AAK, L3F and PAS. CARE is the prime, responsible for contractual compliance, monitoring and reporting on USAID funding with support from partners. PAS is a sub-award to CARE and will implement activities with contractual compliance, monitoring and reporting oversight by CARE and with technical input from AAK and L3F.

This dynamic public-private-partnership harnesses the combined resources of USAID and Mars and affiliates, to achieve the following expected results:

1. Increase income for women farmers through shea value chain and diversified agricultural production aligned with USAID Feed the Future,
2. Strengthen women's empowerment at individual and group level,
3. Pilot protection of natural capital of shea value chain to ensure sustainable production, and resilient agricultural livelihoods.

Mars' strategic partner AAK currently works with 152,000 women farmers in Ghana of which 13,000 are in East Gonja. Through its work with these women's groups, AAK has garnered knowledge and identified interventions to optimize shea production and post-harvest processes. WISH will build on these learnings to target 10,500 women farmers over five years with new interventions that will increase quality and quantity of shea production as well as support women to expand into complimentary agricultural livelihoods. The 10,500 women are a subset of the current 13,000 women AAK is working with in East Gonja

Subsequent to executing the modification to the AGREE award, the partners worked collaboratively to develop a Memorandum of Understanding outlining roles and responsibilities of WISH Initiative partners. Partners also worked together to develop the Terms of Reference for the WISH Initiative Steering Committee. At the time this report was being written, CARE was updating the AMELP, BMP and Gender Action Plans to include new WISH Initiative activities. CARE was also structuring the sub-agreement with PAS. WISH Initiative activities will commence in the next quarter (Q1 of FY21).

AGRICULTURE GOVERNANCE RESULT AREA I: IMPROVED COORDINATION AMONG KEY INSTITUTIONAL ACTORS IN DECENTRALIZED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

I.2 Increased coordination and accountability between local government and non-state actors on planning and implementation

This section shows how the institutional assistance to the local government and the citizens contributed to increased coordination and accountability in the district agricultural sector management.

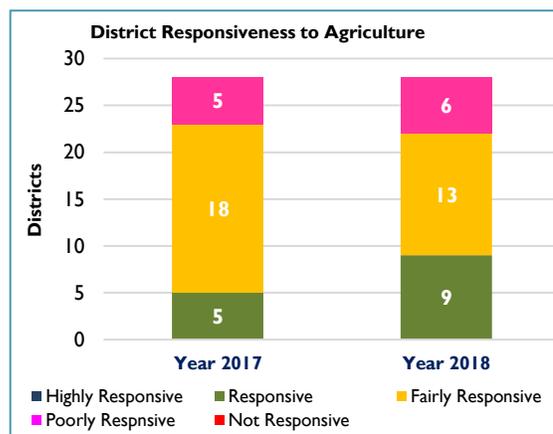
Completion of 2017-2018 District Agricultural Governance Index (DAGI) Assessment

From FY17 to FY19, the project consulted extensively with stakeholders (Government, CSOs, women groups, academic institutions, etc.), to design the goal indicator, the DAGI. The DAGI measures the responsiveness of local government institutions (District Assemblies) to community agricultural needs. In FY20, with support from the Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs), the project completed the first round assessment for the 2017 and 2018 calendar years in 28 districts, covering all project regions (Northern, Savannah, North East, Upper East and Upper West). These MMDAs adopted and applied the new DAGI tool. Prior to the introduction of the DAGI, there was no tool purposely focused on measuring sector progress and investments in agriculture at the district level. The districts were assessed on seven elements, namely: *Agricultural-led intervention, Gender Mainstreaming, Stakeholder Engagement, Quality of Investment, Extension Support Services, District Budgetary Allocations to Agriculture, and Actual Expenditure on Agriculture*. Some key findings and results from data verified by RCC’s include:

“The majority of my people are farmers. This tool [DAGI] will help me and the assembly staff to track how we have performed in the agricultural sector over the years, and improve our performance in the coming years. Once the agricultural sector is growing, once farmers have food and money, they will be happy. I will also be happy” - Victoria Ayamba, the Hon. District Chief Executive for Bawku West

I. The DAGI enabled government authorities and citizens first-time joint assessment of the district's performance on agriculture.

The results show increased local government responsiveness to agriculture in 2018, compared to 2017 figures. The project’s advocacy and capacity building assistance to the districts contributed to the increased performance. For instance, the number of districts, which were *responsive*¹ to agriculture in 2017 increased by 44.4% in 2018. Within the other cohorts (*fairly responsive and poorly responsive*), almost half (13) of the districts also recorded an average of 6.04% improvement in aggregate score in 2018 over 2017. This indicates that the local governments are more



responsive to citizen agricultural issues and

¹ DAGI Measurement Scale: Below 30% (Not Responsive); 30% to 49% (Poorly Responsive); 50% to 69% (Fairly Responsive); 70% to 89% (Responsive); and 90% to 100% (Highly Responsive).

priorities, thereby contributing to the project goal of strengthening responsive governance for improved agriculture development in Ghana.

- 2. Citizens gain ready access to financial data for social accountability and advocacy for increased investment in agriculture.** Before the DAGI, citizens had difficulty accessing packaged financial data on agriculture, including budget allocations and expenditures. Historical financial data on agriculture was also not synthesized and packaged to support evidence-based engagement and advocacy. Through DAGI implementation engagements, citizens, and stakeholder groups such as CSOs and women groups can access detailed financial data (budget and expenditure) on agriculture to facilitate accountability engagements. In districts such as East Mamprusi, Sawla-Tulna-Kalba, Chereponi, Bawku Municipal, Nadowli-Kaleo, and Saboba, the citizens indicated that the DAGI enabled them to see and access district expenditure on agriculture for the first time. The citizens also became aware that their project-supported advocacy has contributed to an increased budgetary allocation to agriculture by an average of 3.6% in 2018. However, actual expenditure on agriculture was low for both years, as about two-thirds of the districts did not meet the government's minimum target 10% public spending on agriculture as agreed under the Maputo Declaration. Approximately two-thirds of the districts also recorded a decline in the actual expenditure on agriculture in 2018 over 2017. The low investment recorded in agriculture triggered engagements between citizens and duty bearers towards increased expenditure on agriculture. As COVID-19 rages on, such engagements will be key in ensuring the sector delivers services as resources may become more strained.
- 3. Data made available for evidence-based advocacy for gender mainstreaming in the agricultural sector.** The Ghana Gender and Agricultural Development Strategy II (GADS II, 2014) requires districts to mainstream gender in agricultural activities. The DAGI results revealed a wide gender disparity in extension service delivery and access to agents. In the Northern Region, 10 (8.4%) of the 119 extension agents were females, 11.9% in Upper West, and 22.2% in Upper East. In addition, half (50%) of agricultural activities implemented by 14 districts in 2017 and 15 districts in 2018 were without gender considerations and did not address any of the gender gaps identified in the Medium Term Development Plans of the districts. This situation affects women's access to extension services as well as thwarting the government's efforts towards achieving gender parity and inclusive agricultural development.
- 4. DAGI prompts discussions to prioritize marketing and processing in the planning and implementation of district agricultural activities at the district level.** From the data, citizens indicated the low investment in marketing and processing contributes to the limited farmer access to markets, which is a major challenge to agricultural development at the district level. The DAGI assessment for 2017 and 2018, showed that the districts focused investments on the production link, (about 85% on average) of the agricultural value chain related activities and costs. The remaining disbursements (15%) was distributed between marketing and processing. One-quarter (1/4) of the district did not record any expenditure item on agricultural marketing for 2018. Hence, CSOs (see *result area 2*) and the District Agricultural Sector Governance Platforms (DASGOPs) are using the data to engage and advocate for a paradigm shift towards marketing and processing of agricultural produce.

The project envisages that the platforms it has supported (DASGOPs, WAPs, CSO/PSA platforms etc), and other citizen groups will use the findings to hold the government accountable. Platforms will also use the data to engage duty bearers and advocate towards increased investment in agriculture and prioritization of gender issues in the planning and implementation of agricultural issues.

1.2.2 District Agricultural Sector Governance Platforms worked to increase coordination among agriculture stakeholders

AGREE's monitoring reports indicate that the DASGOPs contributed significantly to increase coordination among agriculture sector stakeholders in project districts. They held quarterly engagements between the local government authorities and citizens (non-state actors), especially women groups, on agriculture development. These quarterly meetings provided space for the department of agriculture to share information with the citizens' representatives on the Government's Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) program, thereby increasing farmers' access to information and opportunities. Subsequently, the district assemblies accepted suggestions to factor DASGOP activities for funding in their 2021 agricultural sector Annual Action Plan (AAP) and budget. This includes prioritization of marketing, and an increase in the percentage of gender-related activities, which is currently below 40% in most districts. The citizens further disseminated the information to their communities. During FY20 AGREE recorded 567 duty bearers and citizens [428 males and 193 females] who participated in the DASGOP meetings.

"The creation of DASGOP has eliminated the "screen" that existed between citizens and the Assembly including the department of agriculture, and has enhanced citizens-government engagements in the district" – Planning Officer, Chereponi District Assembly

"DASGOP has contributed to increased cohesion among the stakeholders in the agricultural value chain making it easy for them to voice out their concerns and discuss priority issues with the assembly" – Deputy District Coordinator, Nanumba South District Assembly

"In previous years, our women were reluctant to use improved seeds. We discussed this issue at DASGOP meetings and members supported us in the sensitization. This contributed to more women farmers using improved seeds in 2019. Production of maize, rice, and soy has increased this year." – Director of Agriculture, Nanumba North Municipal Assembly

Project monitoring shows that the platform engagements and advocacy contributed to the following:

- Savelugu Municipal established one acre demonstration field in three communities (Tumahi, Moglaa and Nakpanzoo) solely for women farmers to increase their access to extension services, technology transfer and to promote adoption of best agronomical practices among women.
- Nanumba North Municipal established a mechanization center and delivered 14 motorbikes to the department of agriculture to enhance extension service delivery, as part of DASGOP's request to support women in agriculture.
- Bunkpurugu district assembly procured five tractors, which are helping increase women's timely access to traction services. The DASGOP engaged the assembly to share concerns about

"This year, we had timely access to fertile land and traction services. DASGOP members helped us engage chiefs and landowners after discussions at DASGOP meetings. DASGOP also facilitated traction services for us, especially women in Chamba area when they [tractors] were not coming there."

- WAP Chairperson, Nanumba North

women farmers' limited access to traction services. The procurement of the tractors was the result of those engagements.

- Nanumba South District established a yam market to promote the marketing of the product and increase the income of farmers. Tax proceeds from the market is also expected to increase the internally generated funds of the district, to enhance further development.

To sustain the DASGOPs, the departments of agriculture in 10 districts have included DASGOP activities in their 2021 AAP and budget. Notably, the Bawku West Department of Agriculture has allocated funds for four quarterly DASGOP meetings. Nandom, Jirapa, and Nadowli-Kaleo have also budgeted funds for 2021 DASGOP activities. The remaining 18 districts are working to finalize their 2021 AAP and budget. The Regional Directorate of Agriculture has pledged to ensure that DASGOP activities reflect in the 2021 budget of the remaining districts. The Upper East directorate is extending the provision for multi-stakeholder sessions to non-project districts in the region

1.2.3 Establishment of Agricultural Sub-Committees to promote agriculture development

AGREE provided support for the establishment of stand-alone agricultural sub-committees. Seventeen districts (10 in the Northern region, 3 in Upper West, and 2 in Upper West) formed agricultural sub-committees as per section 23 (f) of the Local Governance Act (2016), Act 936. Prior to this intervention, districts such as Jirapa, Nadowli-Kaleo, Wa East, Nandom, and Bongo, though agrarian, had no dedicated agricultural sub-committee. In line with Act 936 (2016), the agricultural sub-committees will collate and deliberate on agricultural issues in the district and advocate for an increase in investments in agriculture. Members of the sub-committee are elected and appointed assembly members (with the district directorate of agriculture) who will consider and table issues to the executive committee, and ultimately hold the assembly and department of agriculture accountable for the delivery of improved agricultural services to the citizens.



The Upper West Regional Budget Officer facilitating a session of the orientation of agricultural sub-committee members in Jirapa.

Photo credit: Lord Pobi

In quarter 4 of FY20, the project supported the Upper East and Upper West RCCs to provide orientation for members of the agricultural committees in five districts (Bongo, Kassena-Nankana, Nadowli-Kaleo, Jirapa, and Nandom), based on the RCCs' mandate. The one-day session deepened the knowledge of the sub-committee members on their functions, roles, and responsibilities. These include engaging farmers/community members and collating their issues for consideration by the department of agriculture and the Executive Committee of the assembly. The orientation also increased participants' knowledge on Ghana's decentralization and local governance system, the district planning and budgeting process (cycle), and key aspects of the Local Governance Act (2016) Act 936 necessary for their functions. In a pre-orientation assessment conducted by the RCCs, 31.5% of the participants reported having a high knowledge of their roles and responsibilities. This more than doubled to 68.8% after the orientation. Districts indicate that costs relating to meetings and engagements of the agricultural sub-committees have been included in most 2021 AAP and budget of the respective districts.

AGRICULTURE GOVERNANCE RESULT AREA 2: IMPROVED CSOS AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN DECENTRALIZED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

2.1. Increased CSOs and private sector awareness on agricultural policies and programs.

Sensitization of citizens on PFJ program, fall armyworm, and COVID-19 via radio and mobile information van.

Through the third and fourth quarters of the FY20, the project supported Department of Agriculture and the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) to raise the awareness of citizens on the modalities for 2020 PFJ program, fall armyworm, peacebuilding mechanisms and COVID-19. This covered 258 communities across 22 districts using mobile information vans and 42 radio sessions held on 18 radio stations. This awareness creation reached an estimated 147,625 listeners including smallholder farmers and contributed to the acceptance levels of PFJ beneficiaries. The total number of beneficiaries monitored for 2020 (provisional) shows an increase over the 2019 figures, though sales of inputs are still ongoing. The Northern Region was the only decliner in female participation in agriculture.

“The financial support from to the department of agriculture for sensitization of citizens via van and radio on PFJ, fall armyworm and COVID-19 protocols has helped us extend our reach to remote communities especially in this era of COVID-19 where assemblies are grappling with the fight of the pandemic with limited available resources.” Peter Claver Anyembey, Municipal Director of Agriculture, West Gonja Municipal.

Table 2.1 PFJ beneficiaries in selected districts

Region	2019		2020	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Northern Region (6 districts)	32,224	6,890	54,713	5,599
Upper East Region (6 districts)	42,104	11,093	41,548	14,731
Upper West Region (7 districts)	70,237	29,419	115,943	31,235
Total	144,565	47,402	212,204	51,565

Source: District Departments of Agriculture

*2020 are provisional figures

2.2 Strengthened CSO and private sector capacity to demand accountability

CSOs/PSAs use Project grants to increase capacity to advocate for greater responsiveness

To enhance CSOs capacity to hold duty bearers accountable, the project instituted a small grant scheme for members of the regional CSOs/PSAs platforms to promote social accountability. Thirty CSOs/PSAs applied for the grant, in response to a Request for Proposal issued by AGREE. Applicants were taken through a competitive selection process and 17 CSOs/PSAs, qualified for the grant and were awarded. Beneficiaries implemented various activities with the grants support, to influence agriculture sector policy implementation at the district level. Below are some indications of results noted from the CSOs interventions:

1. Northern Ghana Coalition for Development (NORTHCODE GHANA): Tracking support for women under the “Planting for Food & Jobs” inputs subsidy program in West Gonja Municipality

NORTHCODE GHANA, a member of the CSOs/PSAs in agriculture platform in the Northern Region, engaged stakeholders in West Gonja municipality on women and People with Disabilities (PwDs) access to subsidized inputs under the PFJ program. Participants included PwDs, traditional leaders, regional and district agriculture staff, women farmers and male farmers. Issues from the stakeholder engagement were discussed in a live radio broadcast on PAD FM in Damongo. The leadership of PwDs Association and the West Gonja Municipal Assembly staff committed to build a database of PwDs interested in farming and present for the assembly’s attention and to further engage to use part of the disability fund to purchase inputs for interested members. NORTHCODE and the Department of Agriculture will also coordinate, collaborate and advocate with Traditional Authorities to help create land banks for women farmers.

2. Centre for Capacity Improvement for the Wellbeing of the Vulnerable (CIWED): Empowerment of women/women groups in the agriculture value chain in the Savelugu Municipal Assembly-

CIWED engaged stakeholders in the Savelugu Assembly to empower WAPs for advocacy and dialogue with agriculture sector actors, to increase women’s access to fertile and productive lands and also facilitate the process of documenting lands to the women. The activity created linkages between farmers and other value chain actors, especially Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), tractor service providers, input agro-chemical dealers. Following advocacy by CIWED and WAP executives, the chief of Nyeko community committed to release 100 acres of farmlands to interested women farmers. CIWED will follow-up with the chief for documentation of the land leading to a secured land tenure.

3. Community Development Alliance (CDA)- Ghana: Regional forum on sustainable agriculture and natural resource governance for improved development outcomes –

CDA, organized a regional forum on sustainable agriculture and natural resource governance for improved development outcomes in the Upper West Region. The forum built consensus and participants agreed on a sustainable path to reducing the levels of deforestation while ensuring sustainable and climate smart agricultural practices. Participants issued a communique urging, among other things, that MMDAs would, urgently, enact and enforce bye-laws to regulate charcoal burning, rosewood logging, and mining activities in the fragile ecological system. They also called upon the Government to enforce the ban on rosewood exports by arresting and prosecuting all persons complicit and culpable in the destruction of the natural resources. In addition, they requested that One-Village-One-Dam facilities be re-engineered with community inputs to make them more fit-for-purpose.

4. Women’s Integrated Development Organization (WIDO): Advocating for access to groundnut seeds under Planting for Food and Jobs in the Nadowli-Kaleo district of the Upper West Region

Groundnuts (peanuts) is a crop grown mostly by women farmers in the AGREE operational area for personal and family support. Early in the PFJ initiative, AGREE women groups successfully appealed to MoFA, through the Minister of State at the Presidency, to include groundnuts in the intervention package. However, there have been challenges obtaining certified seeds for improved yields. WIDO organized a district-level engagement, facilitated by the Kaleo-Nadowli District Assembly, aimed at increasing farmer’s access to groundnut seeds under the government’s PFJ policy. WIDO had earlier generated evidence from five communities using the community score card. Some of the commitments secured from stakeholders were:

- The departments of agriculture (DoA) agreed to facilitate meetings and training for the leaders of the seed growers association and selected quality seed producers.
- DoA to provide bi-annual updates on the PFJ policy to district stakeholders.
- DoA and the district assembly consented to engage land owners and chiefs to release land to seed growers, especially women to produce seeds locally.

Following this interaction, the DoA and WIDO will collate names and quantities of groundnuts seeds to supplied to each community

5. Sustainable Aid through Voluntary Establishment (SAVE GHANA): Ensuring access to PFJ inputs and minimizing input smuggling in Sissala East Municipality

Smuggling of fertilizer and subsidized inputs has been a major challenge for farmers in the Sissala East Municipality and a hindrance to the PFJ. To ensure that the targeted farmers receive improved service delivery, SAVE-GHANA embarked on community sensitizations, with AGREE grant, and formed 10 citizen watchdog committees (CWCs) in the district to track smuggling. They trained the CWCs and members of Kasana and Jiton, two communities along the Ghana-Burkina Faso border where smuggling is rampant. Evidence from the CWCs engagement was later used to engage stakeholders from the department of agriculture, municipal assembly, law enforcement agencies and community leaders. The CWC and SAVE-Ghana have committed to jointly monitor input supplies to improve the quality service under the PFJ program.

6. Trade Aid: Regional dialogue on the role of Agro-input dealers in agricultural intervention.

From the Upper East region, Trade Aid organized a regional-level dialogue on the challenges confronting agro-input dealers on the PFJ program in the region, and to develop strategies to address them. The dialogue attracted agro-input dealers, staff of department of agriculture, WAPs, CSOs, media and traditional leaders. Key traditional leaders including the Paramount Chief of the Bongo Traditional Area and the Queen Mother of Builsa Traditional Area attended. The stakeholders issued a communique with a number of key highlights. There was a call on the department of agriculture to collaborate with Ghana Agro-input Dealers Association in the registration of credible input dealers to minimize smuggling of PFJ inputs. It also called for key stakeholders to eliminate political interference in the registration and selection of input dealers among others. The engagement also called for the extension of the PFJ beyond 2021.

7. Program for Rural Integrated Development (PRIDE Bongo): Community engagements to stop fertilizer smuggling in the Bongo District

AGREE supported PRIDE in the Bongo district and the Directorate of Agriculture to embark on community sensitization in two border communities – Boko and Namoo – towards preventing fertilizer smuggling. PRIDE also facilitated the District Security Council (DISEC) meeting to deliberate on the issue. Participants comprised farmers/community members, traditional leaders, CSOs, WAPs, security agencies and government officials. From the activity, two watchdog committees were formed in the two communities to monitor the smuggling activities and report any malfeasance to appropriate security agencies.

8. Rural Initiatives for Self-Empowerment (RISE) Ghana: District level stakeholders meeting on effective marketing of PFJ farm produce in Talensi district.

AGREE supported a RISE Ghana collaboration with the Talensi District Department of Agriculture in the Upper East Region to organize a district level stakeholder engagement at Tongo. The stakeholders identified their marketing challenges within the agriculture value chain and proposed solutions to ensure

sustainable marketing of their produce. The 25 (14 males and 11 females) participants came from CSOs, farmer groups, aggregators, and suppliers of school feeding program, National Buffer Stock Company suppliers and MOFA staff within the Talensi District. RISE Ghana then followed up with a stakeholders meeting to discuss engagement and quality assurance procedures of the National Buffer Stock Company. The Talensi District stakeholders created a social media platform to facilitate networking and information sharing on markets for farm produce. They also improved their knowledge on National Buffer Stock Company and its quality assurance procedures for upstream farm produce markets.

9. Action for Sustainable Development (ASUDEV): Applying the community score card to track implementation of the 2019/2020 PFJ fertilizer subsidy.

ASUDEV adopted the community score card tool to assess the effectiveness of the 2019/2020 PFJ fertilizer subsidy program in three communities of the Sissala East Municipal of the Upper West Region. Farmers in these communities were led to assess the efficacy of the 2019/2020 fertilizer subsidy program. They discovered issues such as low monitoring of fertilizer sales outlets resulting in some input dealers charging higher prices; inadequate education on pest and disease control, and the high cost of transporting fertilizer to communities from supply centers. Participants developed a joint action plan to address issues identified and improve local implementation procedures and processes for subsidized fertilizer in the Sissala East Municipal.

CSOs/PSA in Agriculture Platform meetings and engagements

AGREE Activity provided virtual platforms and internet data for CSO/PSAs platforms to hold quarterly and annual zonal meetings in the wake of COVID-19. Members updated each other about their advocacy and accountability engagements, and shared experiences and learnings for collective voice for improved policy delivery, amid COVID-19. Largely, the issues identified included unavailable MMDAs funding for District/Regional Agricultural Sector Governance Platform (DASGOP/RASGOP) activities; limited capacity of MMDAs to monitor implementation of One-Village-One-Dam program; limited women access and benefit from Rearing for Food and Jobs (RFJ) program and the push to include guinea fowls rearing on the program. Others are; the absence of Crops and Livestock Insurance components in the PFJ and RFJ programs respectively. The CSOs will solicit other support to shore up their advocacy initiatives beyond AGREE interventions. Stakeholders moved to address some issues raised earlier, thereby recording some achievements at the district and zonal/regional levels.

District level Achievements reported

Through CSOs-led advocacy in various engagements at the district level to the following achievements;

- i. **Bawku West:** The police now escort every truck loaded with inputs to their final destination and supervise offloading to tally with the waybill. This resulted in reduced fertilizer smuggling.
- ii. **Chereponi:** The lead CSO advocated for the training of women on cashew plantation using water from “One-Village-One-Dam” facility in Jakpa Community. Consequently, 80 citizens (48 women; 32 men) were trained on how to manage cashew nursery and plantations.
- iii. **Sissala West:** To reduce the distance between sales points and farmsteads, the department of agriculture agreed to decentralize input sales to zonal/area council level for easy access to fertilizer. Six out of 10 certified input dealers have expanded and extended their businesses to other farming communities outside the District capital e.g. Zini, Jeffisi, Gwollu, Feilimua, Liplime and Jawia.

- iv. **East Mamprusi:** The Department of Agriculture partnered with private sector actors to establish 54 input outlets across five zonal councils. This was in response to a call by farmers to make inputs accessible especially on the remote communities.
- v. **Gushegu:** The Municipal Assembly, through the department of agriculture, deliberately targeted and supported 30 PwD with inputs to expand their farms in the 2020 PFJ implementation season.

Achievements at the zonal and regional level

- CSOs sensitized citizens and advocated for the formation of community watchdog committees in Bawku West and Bongo districts which are working to reduce the incidence of fertilizer smuggling to neighboring Togo and Burkina Faso.
- CSOs advocated for the enactment of bye-laws to curb bush burning in Nanumba South. The DA has since developed, passed and gazetted anti-bush fires bye-laws.
- CSO organized stakeholder dialogue and issued a communiqué to the Upper East RCC with recommendations to address inefficient delivery of agro inputs.
- In a bid to amplify community voices and push for state action, the Upper East CSOs in Agriculture platform issued a statement to the Government through the media on the impact of the recent floods on agriculture and livelihoods in the Region. Among others, the platform called for the establishment of an emergency flood relief fund with seed capital to alleviate the worsening plight of affected farming communities in the region. This will sponsor food aid, livestock support and 100 percent subsidy on all agricultural inputs for dry season farming. The statement also called on government to introduce crop and livestock insurance scheme to compensate farmers in times of drought and floods resulting in loss of crops and livestock.

“We wish to state that the intensity and severity of the impact of this year’s floods on smallholder agriculture and rural livelihoods in the upper east region signals a looming famine and a serious threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2. Government must therefore demonstrate high level of responsiveness to the demands made here to protect and improve livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable households” - Upper East Regional CSOs in Agriculture

Sustainability measures for the zonal and regional platforms

The CSOs will continue to monitor MMDAs responsiveness on commitments and advocate for improved service delivery in agriculture, beyond the life of the project. The following strategies were discussed and adopted for implementation to sustain the platform:

- *Zonal platform:* Ensure bi-annual meetings using various online platforms especially in the face of COVID-19. This will facilitate cross-learning, peer support and agenda setting for a responsive government sector.
- *Northern and Upper West Regions:* Executive members agreed to build a database of all registered members of the platform and institute a quarterly dues payment scheme to sustain platform meetings and other operations.
- *Upper East:* The Platform has raised about GHC2,000 through membership registration fees and dues to support its advocacy activities.

Collation of citizens’ proposals into 2021 MMDAs agriculture sector budgets

CSO leads across the three project regions leveraged the technical support provided by the AGREE project and mobilized the collation of about 110 (Northern Region-58; Upper East-19; Upper West-33)

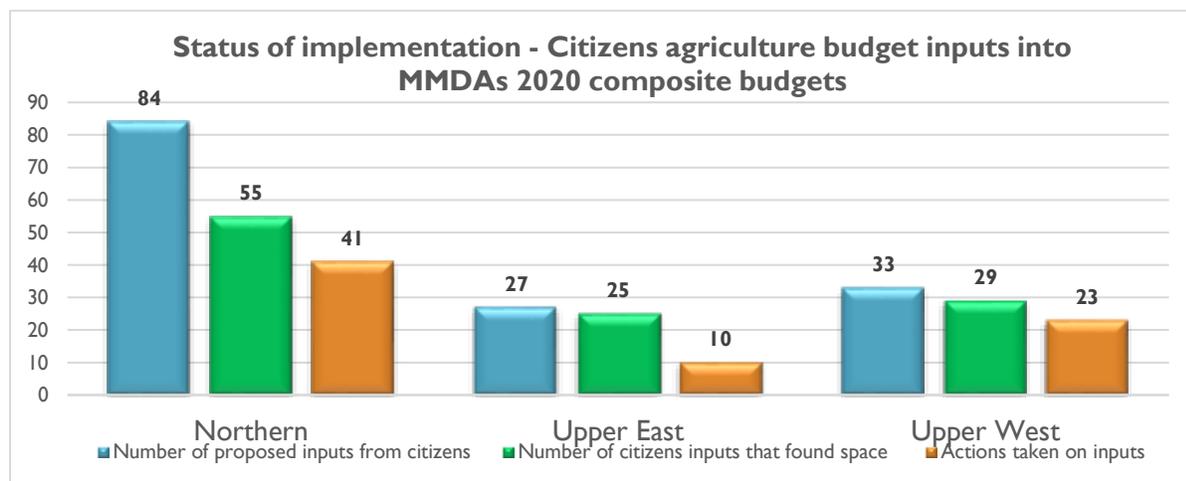
citizens' inputs into the 2021 agriculture sector budgets of the respective MMDAs. This is a sustainability measure for CSOs to continue to harness citizens' inputs into agriculture sector budgets. The inputs came from key stakeholders in the agriculture value chain like the WAPs, PSAs and smallholder farmers. Some of these inputs include:

- MMDAs to provide budgetary allocations to support the effective functions of platforms like DASGOP and agriculture sub-committee
- MMDAs to facilitate market development and linkages for farm produce
- District Assemblies to facilitate procurement of affordable traction/tillage technology for women farmers
- District Assemblies to facilitate favorable credit schemes for women generally, and especially those in agriculture.

Tracking the Status of MMDAs' implementation of 2020 agriculture sector budgets

In FY19 Q4, AGREE Activity supported the district lead CSOs to solicit citizens' budget proposals into the 2020 agriculture sector provisions of the MMDA budgets. Throughout FY20, CSOs followed up on MMDAs to assess progress of their responsiveness regarding disbursements of the 2020 agriculture budget. In the Northern Region, 75 percent of citizens' inputs found space in the 2019 budget. However, only about 55percent of this were acted upon through disbursed funding. Similarly, in Upper West and Upper East, there was a 79% acceptance rate for community inputs in 2019, with just 40 percent of the issues in the budget reports responding to inputs made. The MMDAs posited that the slow pace of implementation of budgeted activities was occasioned by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March 2020.

Figure 2.1 below shows progress of implementation for the fourth quarter of FY20 in the three regions.



Key Results on tracking of 2020 MMDAs agriculture sector budget

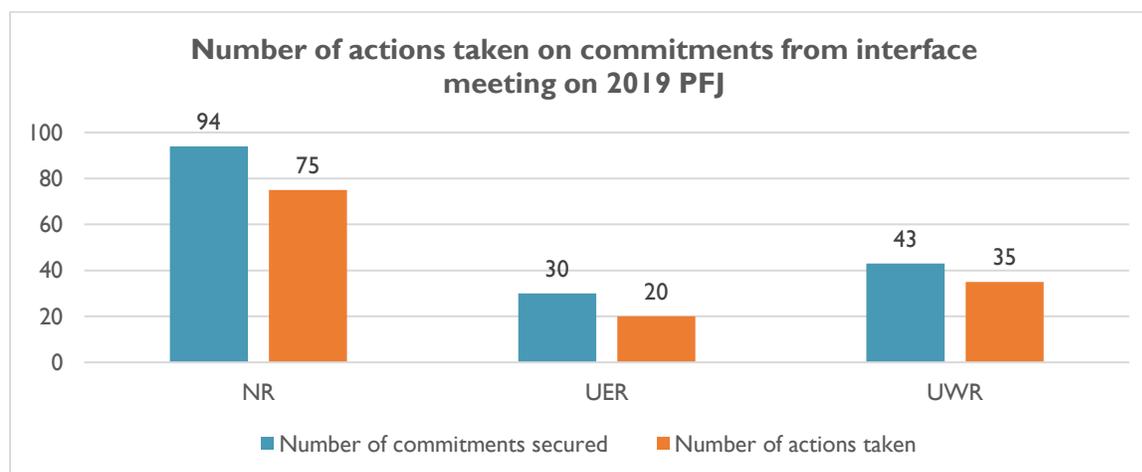
- Increased responsiveness by MMDAs to citizens demands: MMDAs across the three regions reacted positively to 68 percent of agriculture budget proposals made by citizens that found space in their agriculture sector budgets
- Chereponi: Bye-laws on bush burning have been drafted awaiting presentation to the General Assembly for consideration in response to citizens' demands to tackle rampant bush fires affecting crop and livestock production.

- Saboba: In response to citizens demands for tractor services, DoA facilitated private tractor operators to provide services to farmers at reduced price of GHS 70.00 per acre as compared to the going GHS 90.00 per acre charged
- West Gonja: In response to citizen’s demand for increased participation of women in the Rearing for Food and Jobs program, the DoA allocated 50% cashew and 40% ruminants under the RFJ package to women farmers, especially the WAP. The distribution of ruminants began in September, 2020, and so far, 60 women platform members have received 40 small ruminants and 600 birds (10 birds per beneficiary) for rearing.
- Sissala West: In response to farmers’ demand at DASGOP, for training on identification of animal disease, treatment and feed formulation for livestock, the DoA enhanced the capacities of 1,970 (1,020 males; 950 females) farmers in 54 communities on caring for livestock, identification of disease cases etc.
- Jirapa: the DoA also built the capacity of 60 (32 males; 28 females) farmers on livestock management, housing and feeding in response to citizens demands for assembly to train farmers on livestock management.
- Nabdam: DoA has trained over 20 women groups and other farmers on proper preservation of farm produce in the district to reduce post-harvest losses and improve family incomes.
- Bolgatanga: The DoA set up 12 demonstration fields and used them to train farmers on appropriate application of fertilizer and other agrochemicals

2.3. Improved policies, laws and Institutional mechanisms for effective engagement

Responsiveness tracking: - Status of implementation of Action Plans from District interface meetings on 2019 PFJ Score Card.

During FY20 Q1, CSOs/PSAs embarked on the annual participatory monitoring of the government's PFJ program using community scorecard. Evidence gathered from citizens and duty bearers were used to conduct district-level interface engagements in Q2 and Q3. During these engagements joint action plans were developed to address some identified implementation challenges. In Q4 CSOs follow-up checks revealed that MMDAs have made significant progress in implementing about 77.8 percent (130 out of 167 commitments) in the action plans from the interface meetings on the 2019 PFJ assessment. The regional breakdowns are shown in the chart below;



Source: CSOs’ Responsiveness tracking report

Key Results from responsiveness tracking on commitments from 2019 PFJ score card interface meetings

- Through AGREE's advocacy on public participation and inclusiveness, most MMDAs purposely targeted CSOs/PSAs, PwD and Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) beneficiaries to participate in PFJ programs. Some districts also provided support to the vulnerable groups as a step to lift them out of the poverty bracket, in line with Agenda 2030 of ensuring that no one is left behind.
- *East Mamprusi*: Farmers now confidently channel their issues through agricultural extension agents (AEAs) and Assembly members located at the zonal councils.
- *Yendi*: Thirty input dealer shops have been duly registered with the DoA located in Bunbon (1), Kulkpeni (1), Gbungbalga (1), Adiboo (1), Gnani (1), Nakpache (1), Kpanjamba (1) and Yendi (23) to reduce the long distances covered by farmers to access inputs.
- *Nandom*: Through the support from the GASIP project, 55 women-based farmer organizations have been trained as extension agents to support extension delivery services in 21 communities and serve as liaison on joint agriculture planning activities, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- *Bawku West*: AGREE supported about 16 radio sessions organized on Zebs FM to increase awareness on the 2020 PFJ modalities.

AGRICULTURE GOVERNANCE RESULT AREA 3: ENHANCED WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

3.1. Strengthened joint action among women's groups in the agriculture sector at the local government level

This section of the report highlights AGREE results of activities designed to increase agricultural information and opportunities to women in agriculture and enhance their livelihoods. AGREE's investment in women in agriculture has contributed to improving women's productivity, livelihood and enhanced their income status. Within the reporting period, the project continued to work towards increasing women's inclusion in agriculture governance, with over 30,000 women from 750 women groups. The project provided capacity building for women in advocacy, public speaking, social accountability mechanisms, gender auditing and social auditing, among others. Interventions have helped to amplify the visibility and voices of the women beneficiaries within the local government circles and equipped women to better advocate for services from government agencies. With project support, women beneficiaries gained admittance into the agricultural sub-committees in some districts. The capacity building in financial management and "farming as a business" helped the women to improve their business management practices.

1. Increased ability to advocate leading to improved gender responsiveness

Through the advocacy of the WAPs, there has been an increase in women's access to agricultural information and opportunities. Women can now receive required services and information due to their deepened relationship with the assemblies and departments of agriculture. In the East Mamprusi Municipality in the Northern Region, women were supported with seedlings to venture into cashew farming under the Planting for Export and Rural Development program upon appeal to the department of agriculture. Other women also benefited from the pilot phase of the Rearing Food and Job (RFJ) program in Bawku West, Nandom West, Gonja, Sawla Tuna Kalba and Gushegu.

In the Upper West Region, the WAP members at Sentu (Lambussie DA) and Sankana (Nadowli-Kaleo DA) used their advocacy skills to lobby for boreholes from the assembly for their communities, while those in Kongyuuri (Jirapa) also successfully lobbied for the construction of a Kindergarten school in their community.

The Langzellanombu Women group at Naro in the Nadowli-Kaleo District in the Upper West Region lobbied the District Chief Executive to secure electrical poles to connect power to their Shea processing center. The group also used the AGREE grant money to fully wire their processing center, and successfully connect it to the national grid. The power supply increased the daily mill production (output) of the group from eleven (11) 25kg boxes to twenty (20) boxes. The power is used to mill, dry beans on time and provide security at the center at night.

2. Increase in women's participation in government-level activities

In Talensi, Bongo, Bawku and Bawku West districts, the departments of agriculture provided on-site training and sensitization for WAP members on the use of agro chemicals and provided free chemicals to them for the control of fall armyworm. This is due to existing close collaboration between the DoA and the platforms. During a DASGOP meeting, the Bawku Director of Agriculture indicated the allocation of

60 percent of cockerels to the WAP platform members under the Rearing for Food and Jobs and promised to further ensure that WAP members are major beneficiaries of this government flagship in 2021.

3. Women increased accessed to productive lands and cultivation of cash crops

In the Talensi District WAP lobbied and secured a 10-acre land from the chief of Balungu Community for a five-year period. The chief has duly documented the land in his palace and the WAP will cultivate the land in the next farming season. Women in Nandom, Lawra, Lambussie, Jirapa, Nadowli-Kaleo and Wa East in the Upper West Region successfully lobbied traditional authorities and landlords in their communities to secure between one and two acres of land each, on flexible informal tenure arrangements, leading to increased women access to land for farming. Many WAP members who hitherto did not consider farming a lucrative business are now negotiating for farmlands and cultivating marketable crops to generate income for their households. Women have also renting land and advocated for family lands to cultivate cash crops such as maize, a cashew and soya beans. In the Talensi District, Rose Tibil and Rita Ayizara from Pusu Namongu and Dapore communities are now cultivating an acre each of cashew. In collaboration with CARE's Agro-Source Project in Bawku West, over six WAP members have enrolled as seed producers and are cultivating soya beans, hoping to generate more income from the seed sale in the next farming season.

4. Increased partnership between WAPs and agriculture sector actors leads to increased resource mobilization

AGREE's mobilization and skills transfer for women collectives over the project life have begun to demonstrate results with the improved confidence and greater acceptance by stakeholders in their ability to contribute significantly to sector objectives. In the Lawra District in the Upper West Region, the I-Nye women group from Gbengbee community won an equipment award from Modernizing Agriculture in Ghana (MAG) project for the purchase of rice processing equipment. This emanated from the application of proposal writing skills acquired from earlier AGREE training together with the cordial relationship developed between the WAPs and the department of agriculture.

The WAP in Wa successfully lobbied Antika Company Ltd, a private agro-input dealer in Wa, and obtained 1,650 bags of fertilizer (900 NPK and 750 SA) under a flexible inputs scheme. This was distributed to five WAP groups in the Sissala East (Pulima, Kong, Sankana, Sakalu and Sakai) with favorable repayment terms after harvest. The Nandom WAP also lobbied the Municipal Assembly and department of agriculture to benefit from 109 bags of fertilizer for about 100 women with flexible modes of payments after harvesting.

3.2. Catalyzing women's investments through the provision of Revolving Funds

During the reporting period, the project cumulatively disbursed grants to 197 women groups (Upper West-75, Upper East-60, and Northern Region-62) to cushion their business activities. The grants operate in a revolving fund that is self-managed by the WAPs. These grants strengthened investments for smallholder women farmers and increased the women's income levels through their engagement in agriculture- value chains. Most beneficiaries of the first disbursements invested in maize, groundnuts, rice and soy production whilst others are engaged in shea-butter extraction, rice parboiling, dawadawa (local spice) processing and petty trading. In the Nabdram District in the Upper East Region, the 'Hope of the Needy' women's group used their money to wire the premises of a grinding mill provided by another donor, awaiting connection to the national grid. Vida Aduko in Bongo District for instance has increased her maize farm from 1 to 5 acres due to her access to the grant and knowledge of where and how to acquire the inputs. She is hoping to harvest over 4,000kg of maize this (2020) farming season.

Training of Revolving Fund Management Committees and second-phase grant disbursement

Monitoring indicates that beneficiaries of the first phase of the grants were able to repay into their District Revolving Fund Accounts. This created the need to re-disburse to other groups. AGREE also transferred additional funds to each district platform (in respective Revolving Fund Accounts) to bolster the grant reserves for more meaningful and expanded allocation to qualified groups, through the mechanism of the grant management committees. Because the grants scheme will be managed by the women themselves, the project developed a WAP Revolving Fund Management Guidelines and trained the district WAP Revolving Fund Management Committees (WRFMC) in all the 30 MMDAs. This is to provide uniform objective standards and to build leadership capacity to effectively and sustainably manage the revolving funds. In the third quarter AGREE trained committee members from the Upper West (55) and Upper East (35). Members from the Northern Region (115) were trained in the fourth quarter. Trainees were WAPs, CSO representatives and Women in Agriculture Development (WIAD) Officers. The modules covered included allowable and disallowable activities/investments for the grants, application windows, criteria for selecting beneficiaries, and disbursement procedures for selected qualified groups. After the capacity building training, the WRFMCs successfully reviewed applications, selected qualified groups and disbursed funds from the revolving funds to members.

A total of 142 (Upper West 75, Upper East 67) groups were selected. Of those selected, ninety-two (Upper West 32, Upper East 60) have received their funds and preparations ongoing to disburse to the remaining groups in Upper West and Upper East Region respectively. WAPs in the Northern Region are yet to open grant applications and disburse funds, awaiting repayment from the first group of grant recipients.

In addition to the grants, the increased capacity of the WAPs in financial management has promoted group-level savings and helped the groups to effectively manage their VSLA contributions at the community level. The Bawku Municipal WAP mobilized resources through collection of membership dues to support the Platform's activities.

3.3. Facilitation of WAP Quarterly Meetings

Due to the restrictions to curb the COVID-19 pandemic, WAPs in the 30 operational MMDAs could not hold their quarterly meetings in the second half of FY20. However, in the Northern and Upper East Regions, the project facilitated communication and information sharing through virtual platforms (WhatsApp), which were created for WAPs, since WAPs in the Upper West Region had an already established communication platform. With the easing in COVID-19 restrictions, the WAPs successfully held third and fourth quarter meetings with strict COVID-19 safety protocols. The WAPs reflected on their key successes and deliberated on how to sustain the platforms after the project, while keeping the effect of the pandemic in mind. The meetings attracted 852 (750 females and 102 males) participants. The WRFMC members in all the MMDAs shared with their platforms the knowledge gained from the fund management training. In the Upper West and East Regions, the WRFMCs updated the platforms on the grant applications, selection and disbursement processes. Some key issues and action points from the meetings were:

Upper East Region:

- WAPs will continue to collect monthly membership dues to sustain the quarterly meetings and support WAP activities.
- Write letters to organizations and Members of Parliament to source funds to support their advocacy and other activities;
- Each set of seven district WAP executives will embark on monthly visits to all the revolving fund beneficiary groups to monitor their activities and ensure timely repayment of the funds. They will also hold guarantors liable in cases of defaults.
- The seven district WAPs will expand their membership with the addition of more groups.

Upper West Region:

- The WAPs discussed penalties for defaulting beneficiary groups for the sustainable management of the revolving funds;
- They amended the constitutional mandate of executives at their regional level from 2 years to 4 years per term with all 24 representatives voting for change. This followed discussions held on the issue at the district level meetings;
- All eight district WAPs and Regional platform agreed to maintain their quarterly meetings and provide logistics on their own for sustainability as the support ends;
- The regional representatives agreed to increase their quarterly dues from GHc15.00 to GHc20.00 to support regional level activities.

Northern Region:

- All 15 platforms resolved to continue with their meetings using individual and collective resources to sustain project benefits. Individual members and groups will intensify payment of monthly dues. Saboba groups agreed to pay dues to the district platform at meetings to fund their advocacy activities. In East Mamprusi, members agreed on monthly due amounts per group.
- Groups which defaulted in paying the first grant disbursed committed to pay up their indebtedness within the month.
- On the platform expansion, WIAD officers pledged to identify registered groups from the communities to enable the leadership of WAPs to sensitize them about the operations and structure of the platforms and how they can get enrolled into the district WAPs.

3.4. Expansion of WAP membership to enhance women's collective voice

In response to women's demand for increased participation in the WAPs, AGREE provided support to increase group membership of district WAP by 5 groups, bringing the total to 30 groups per MMDA. The increase will support expanded coverage and enhance the collective voice of women for visibility and advocacy. The project supported WAPs in the Upper West Region to select and add interested new groups. The district platforms undertook verification and assessments to establish the viability and suitability of the groups who wished to join. The exercise was facilitated by two WAP executive members, with the support of the WIAD Officers from the departments of agriculture. The eight district WAPs successfully completed the exercise and each selected five more groups that met the standard criteria. Forty women groups are admissible to join the various district platforms, thereby increasing the total WAP membership in the region from 200 to 240 groups. The selected groups will be inaugurated and oriented by the executives during their next quarterly meeting in December 2020. WAPs in the Northern

and Upper East are planning for their expansion exercises. The verification exercise was a learning point for the WAPs in the identification of credible and viable groups.

3.5. Facilitating District WAP registration with MMDAs and Department of Cooperatives

The project supported WAPs in all 30 MMDAs in the three regions to register with their respective District Assemblies as legal cooperative bodies. The registration was a requirement to enable the platforms to receive additional project grants money into their revolving fund accounts. Besides, their registration as cooperatives has given them the legal status and structure to engage, operate and work with any institution or organization. This leverage can help enhance group solidarity to sustain their business operations beyond the project, including receiving funds from donors for advocacy and livelihood activities.

AGRICULTURE GOVERNANCE RESULT AREA 4: IMPROVED CONFLICT MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

4.1. Strengthened capacity of local authorities to manage conflicts

Leveraging DASGOPs to improve conflict mitigation through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms

During the period, the project trained 119 (88 males and 31 females) members of five DASGOPs in ADR mechanisms. The ADR training equipped the participants with the essential knowledge and skills to manage conflicts for improved agricultural development in their communities and districts. The project supported the DASGOPs to prepare action plans to mediate some conflicts in their respective locations with AGREE resources.

The DASGOP's collaboration with the Regional Peace Councils (RPCs) strengthened their involvement in peacebuilding activities, towards addressing conflicts in the communities and districts. The collaboration with AGREE Activity made it easy to access perspectives from various key stakeholders such as the department of agriculture and the land sector agencies, i.e. the Customary Lands Secretariat, to help them mediate land conflicts.

The Executive Secretary of the Upper East Regional Peace Council, explained that, even though the Peace Council has not been able to establish District Peace Councils as required by the Act 808 that established it, the presence of the DASGOPs and their enhanced capacity are making communities feel the impact of the Peace Councils - Mr. Ali Anankpieng

Through the collaborative work, the RPCs supported the mediation of 39 conflicts in FY20. They identified conflict stakeholders and engaged them individually and as groups to discuss the issues for amicable resolutions. One such conflict was in the Gia Community in the Kassena-Nankana Municipal where the DASGOP mediators and the RCC identified the actors as the Irrigation Company of Upper Region (ICOUR), Gia community fishermen/farmers, the paramount Chief of Navrongo Navro-Pio and the department of agriculture, and these stakeholders participated in the mediation process to resolve the land feud peacefully. The collaboration initiated by DASGOP members contributed to peace and calm in the area which facilitated uninterrupted agricultural activities in the 2020 farming season.

The capacity building initiatives also equipped Traditional Authorities with the skills and knowledge to mediate conflicts in their jurisdictions. In the Bongo Traditional Area, the Paramount Chief (Bonaba) admitted he used the knowledge and skills he gained from the training to address a land dispute between his traditional area and the Nabdam traditional area. The Bonaba later recounted that:

"...there was even an instance the Nabdams armed themselves to fight the Kasingo people who are my people. However, I have used my experience and knowledge in peacebuilding to control my people and urged them not to be violent, but they should allow peaceful processes to take place. I reported the case to the Regional Security Council (REGSEC), and through that, the REGSEC also referred it to the Regional Peace Council. I also urged the Regent of Kasingo to petition the Regional Minister and he did, and the RPC is now mediating the conflict"

Peace and conflict mediation training to CSOs and WAPs in Upper West and Upper East Regions

As part of the initiative to create a conducive environment for farming and peaceful communities, AGREE provided a Training of Trainers opportunity to civil society and women platforms in the Upper West and East regions on peacebuilding and conflict mediation. They were later supported to organize downward capacity transfer training to group members. This has enabled participants and their teams to mainstream conflict prevention and peacebuilding into their activities.

For instance, the “A-eingbise” Women Farmers’ Group at Goree in the Bongo District used to overlook petty disputes among members, which adversely affected the growth and stability of the group. According to the WAP Treasurer, Mad. Rose Adongo, since she participated in the training, they have been addressing disputes as they arise. This has fostered peace in the group, the community and at the household level. Rose stated it also helped to solve quarrels in her household.

In Kassena-Nankana Municipal, the WAP Chair explained that one member used to quarrel with almost everyone in the group during meetings; members retaliated and that would usually cause meetings to end abruptly. Following the step-down training, there has been fewer incidents of tension in the meetings. She affirmed that the training on conflict mediation improved the group dynamics of WAPs, because individuals are more tolerant, which has reduced conflicts. She added that a non-WAP group in the district (Upolo Women’s group) heard of the approach and sought the WAPs assistance to resolve their group conflicts, and the WAP obliged.

In another example, the District WIAD Officer, Mad. Diana Akumanue, recalled that the WAP Secretary misapplied the WAP grant, which could have disintegrated the group. However, the WAP used mediation and persuasion to retrieve their money. At the institutional level, the training has helped to improve conflict management. She said: *“...two staff members were at loggerheads for a very long time and were not on talking terms for over a year. But I managed to resolve the dispute between them after the mediation training and they are now talking to each other as colleagues.”* (Mad. Diana Akumanue)

Mad. Esther Zuur, WAP Secretary in Jirapa, reported that they have used the knowledge from the training to resolve problems and disputes including issues of some members who defaulted to pay back grants from their VSLA coffers. They applied the ‘perspective principle’ acquired from the training which allowed members to explain their circumstances and provide repayment plans.

Mr. Simon Amoah, the CSO/PSA platform Chair in the Upper East Region, reiterated his conviction that the AGREE Activity is unique because of the incorporation of conflict management and peacebuilding components.

“Initially, we were doing fire-fighting. We were doing community development and not mindful of what conflicts could do to our interventions. We are now conscious of the importance of peace in development and so we are incorporating peacebuilding and conflict prevention mechanisms in our work. We even became aware of conflict early warning signs and we now take actions against violence in advance. With the knowledge from your (AGREE) training, Tree Aid targeted and trained community leaders in our project areas and so the communities we are working with are also incorporating peacebuilding into their work and not taking peace for granted. Our platform is even considering advocating for donors and the National

Development Planning Commission to have a component on peacebuilding and conflict prevention into the district planning framework.”

Develop peace sensitization manual on management of land and natural resource conflicts

The project worked with the Institute of Peace and Development, a peace-building and conflict transformation group based in Tamale, through WANEP-Ghana, to develop a “Peace Sensitization Manual.” The manual contains five modules on conflict dynamics, understanding peace, conflict prevention and management, non-violent conflict resolution and indigenous conflict resolution processes in northern Ghana. This document will be AGREE Activity’s legacy for guiding the DASGOPs to design and disseminate peace messages in their communities. The draft Manual has been tested in training sessions and inputs/comments from participants will inform refinements to the final version.

Support and coordinate communities and national agencies to develop bye-laws to formalize community land-use to improve peacebuilding and conflict prevention

Project partners facilitated virtual Zoom meetings for Bongo and Jirapa DASGOPs/ DAs in August 2020 to raise awareness on the need to formalize land acquisition and draft bye-laws to regulate pastoralists and crop farmers’ relationships in the two districts. The meetings increased stakeholders’ awareness on land rights and processes of acquiring land for agriculture and other uses. Participants also acquired useful insights into the 2019 Lands Bill. Mr. Ernest Zaato, from the Community-District Monitoring Team commented:

“I think the zoom meeting we held quite recently empowered the women who were on the call to know the processes involved in land acquisition and registration. The Lands Commission Officer took time to explain the processes very well and I think we understood him better”

The Executive Secretaries of the Upper East and Upper West RPCs both observed that the meetings are yielding results in Bongo and Jirapa districts as the two DASGOPs have each established a committee to support the assemblies to draft bye-laws to regulate conflicts between herdsmen and crop farmers and formalize procedures for land acquisition for farming. The RPCs will continue to provide technical support to the two assemblies/DASGOPs to enable them to finalize and approve their bye-laws.

4.2 Enhanced early warning database to collect data and information to mitigate threats

The WANEP-Ghana Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) and Management Information System (MIS) form the backbone for project conflict information and data gathering, processing and dissemination to stakeholders as alerts and for security decision making. It uses community-based volunteers who are AGREE-trained and resourced to use technology for data collection.

Communication and Information Sharing on the Updated Early Warning and Response

AGREE continues to run the EWRS to feed the project MIS with real-time conflict data for analysis. In the period under review, 108 signals were recorded into the MIS. Signals are signs or happenings that can result in violence. Twenty-three (23) of these signals were related to chieftaincy, 21 to politics, 13 to land disputes and 12 were COVID-19 pandemic related while ‘Other’ signals counted 28. There were other signals including communal, religious and ethnic conflicts recorded, two (2) each, farmer- herder recorded four (4), and one (1) natural disaster conflict. The MIS also recorded 99 incidents. Incidents are any events

that cause or can cause harm or injury to a person or group of persons or animals or destroy property. Twenty-eight (28) incidents were related to land tenure and rights, with 21 of these occurring in Chereponi and Saboba alone. Chieftaincy and politics recorded 18 incidents each. Gushegu alone had eight incidents out of the 18 political cases reported, while 'Other' incidents totaled 16. The remaining incidents include 3 communal; 5 ethnic; 3 extractives; 6 farmer-herder; and 2 water resources related cases. In the first quarter, only one land tenure and rights incident occurred, but this rose to eight in the second quarter and more significantly to 13 in the third quarter. Notably, in farming seasons farmers seek to secure lands for farming. The figure declined drastically again in Q4 to just six (6) cases. The system also monitored farmer-herder conflict incidents, moving from 2 in Q1, none in Q2 & Q3, and rising to four cases in Q4.

The Upper West Region leads with 55 conflicts, followed by the Northern Region with 44. However, the NR leads the mediation table with 14 conflicts successfully mediated in the year. The mediation for 81 other conflicts are still ongoing, while 36 conflicts yet unattended. The availability of such data and observations provides the RPCs with handy and up-to-date conflict profiles of each project district, to facilitate preventive interventions.

RAPID RESPONSE INITIATIVE (RRI) FOR PEACE IN DAGBON

The RRI peace intervention seeks to respond to conflict issues in volatile spots in Dagbon Traditional Area and Chereponi and Saboba districts in the Northern Region. The Dagbon Traditional Area emerged from a long-standing chieftaincy conflict with occasional factional violence. After the installation of a new Dagbon Overlord (Ya Naa) in January 2019, ancillary issues of succession and land disputes continue to threaten peace and security. The Chokosis and the Konkomba ethnic groups in the Chereponi district have also been engaged in violent clashes since 2018, over land rights with spillover effect in Saboba district.

I. Preventive Diplomatic Engagements in Dagbon, Bimbilla and Bunkpurugu

In the period under review, the RRI held 61 preventive engagement meetings in Dagbon, Nanung and Mamprugu Kingdoms of northern Ghana to mitigate conflict threats and provide technical support to the traditional authorities to manage conflicts. The Northern Regional Peace Council (NRPC) undertook bilateral engagements to mitigate the threats in early warning reports. A total of 42 traditional authorities in the three Kingdoms were engaged. This de-escalated tensions in 5 hotspots in northern region, namely: Bunkpurugu (May 13, 2020); Ando/Kpaboku (April 23, 2020); Chereponi and Wenchiki (May 28, 2020), Bimbilla Regent and Chief of Mion (May 27, 2020); as well as doused the renewed clashes in Naduni (July 25, 2020). Consequently, some representatives of the feuding parties committed themselves to influence their youth to use non-violent approaches to address their differences.

The RPC's hands-on engagements, collaborations and participatory approaches enhanced the technical expertise of the Regional and District Security Councils, and traditional authorities to effectively manage disputes. By providing the platform for discussions it inured improved tolerance among disputants, as contestants vented their grievances and frustrations. The diplomatic shuttles and maneuvers also improved collaboration and coordination between the NRPC and the Dagbon Constitutional Review Committee, who found common ground to streamline the customs and cultural practices for improved traditional administration and consensual decision making on chieftaincy, land and development.

2. Providing technical support to Dagbon Traditional Council (DTC) to design and implement action plans to sustain peace

The RRI, through the NRPC supported the DTC to organize a meeting in Yendi on the emerging issues that could derail the peace of the Kingdom. It was aimed at building consensus among the chiefs and elders on how to mobilize resources to develop the “new” Dagbon. The meeting established a Dagbon Development Committee with 11 members, with the powers to co-opt others and/or establish subcommittees to handle the various themes of the development agenda. The committee consulted and established sub-committees on fund-raising, agriculture and natural resources development, Gbewaa Palace Construction, and the DTC office rehabilitation.

The meetings birthed an ad hoc committee (Judicial Committee) to handle the Sanguli and Nalogni chieftaincy disputes. The house accepted the advice to review the 1930 Dagbon Constitution. The Gbewaa Palace subsequently appealed to the NRPC to provide technical support to the Development Committee and the Dagbon Constitutional Review process. The NRPC replicated 200 copies of the 1930 Dagbon Constitution for stakeholders to study and guide their contributions to the review process.

The NRPC also analyzed the early warning reports vis-a-vis the dynamics of the Dagbon conflicts, and the diplomatic engagements and provided some procedural advice to the review committee. This facilitated the convening of another DTC general meeting on June 30, 2020 in which the Ya-Naa inaugurated a fifteen member Dagbon Constitutional Review Committee (DCRC), with the mandate to:

- Review the 1930 Constitution and make inputs based on the people’s perspectives and ensure that the final product reflects the wishes and aspirations of the people of Dagbon
- Eliminate all the difficulties that inhibit the smooth implementation of the 1930 Constitution
- Present a comprehensive draft constitution in both in English and Dagbanli for the consideration of the King and DTC.

The other outcomes of the meetings include increased tolerance among the two major royal gates. For example, a petition on the composition of the DCRC from the Abudu (Mahami) Royal Gate was accepted, read and discussed for consideration by the King who is from the Andani gate.

3. Post-conflict reintegration efforts in Chereponi and parts of Saboba Districts

The NRPC in collaboration with the Chereponi and Saboba District Peace Committees, the two DISECs and some community leaders intervened to facilitate the resettlement and reintegration of persons displaced during the Anufors and Konkomabas disturbances in the Chereponi and Saboba districts. These included community forums on peaceful coexistence, trauma healing training and community durbar to enhance dialogue and communication among parties. The interventions were supported by community leaders. The discussions at the forums and durbars helped to clarify some of the grapevine reports and these deepened trust among the disputing ethnic groups. The other intervention results include:

- For the first time, the interventions brought the feuding groups together in the same space to discuss collective approaches to bring peace to their areas, as starting points of re-socializing the factions and re-engineering cooperation and collaboration.
- Some displaced community members were reintegrated into their communities in Chereponi and Saboba districts, to pursue their legitimate farming and other activities.

4. Strengthen local capacities for peace processes in Dagbon, Chereponi and Saboba Districts

Building capacity of 40 Konkomba and Chereponi Chiefs in Yendi

The activity trained 40 Chiefs in Yendi (September/October 2020) on the provisions of the Chieftaincy Act of Ghana of 2008 (Act 759). The training created awareness among the participants on the Chieftaincy Act and improved their capacities to manage conflict and promote peace. The training equipped the participants with knowledge and skills to use ADR approaches effectively to address community grievances, using the appropriate channels. The participants were educated on the chieftaincy institution and the roles and responsibilities of chiefs in Ghana's democracy. The training improved participants' understanding of the ethics, laws and guiding principles of mediation; and enhanced participants' capacities to develop systems to regulate and guide the growth of chieftaincy institutions.

Non-Violent Sensitization for 30 Kpatinga Youth/Women in Yendi

A non-violent sensitization session was organized for youth and women from Kpatinga. The sensitization focused on the ongoing conflict situation in the area to facilitate discussions and improve peaceful coexistence for improved economic and agricultural development. Generally, participants showed commitment to help stop violence in the community. Women used the platform to appeal to the youth to exercise restraint and allow peace to prevail in the community. Alhaji Baako, a community member voiced his excitement and remarked:

“There is no one among the participants here who doesn't know that I am an Abudu Gate supporter. I have been accommodating Abudu Gate fighters in my room in most of the chieftaincy conflicts in Kpatinga. I coordinated fighters' deployment and arms distribution in Kpatinga. There have been times that my house people and friends wonder why I continue to sleep during the day when everybody has woken up. On such occasions, I had travelled throughout the previous night back to Kpatinga after participating in Abudu Gate's meetings elsewhere in Dagbon. In all these things, those who encouraged me had never shared this kind of knowledge with me. I never knew I could belong to Abudu or Andani Gate and still maintain healthy relations with others (opponents). This training has taught me a great lesson and I am prepared to practice and share the knowledge I gained with colleagues and relatives.”

3.0. MONITORING, LEARNING AND COMMUNICATIONS

During the period AGREE Activity scope was expanded, prompting an update to the AMELP. At the time this report was being developed, COVID-19 Response and Women in Shea field activities had not commenced, and the DRAFT Revised AMELP had not been approved by USAID. Hence, the results presented in this FY20 report, are solely for the Agriculture Governance activities.

The report presents consolidated progress towards achieving the Agriculture Governance targets for FY 20 and the key monitoring and evaluation activities implemented in the just ended quarter (quarter 4). The FY adopted the use of new innovations to program implementation due to the COVID-19 and as such revised some of its program implementation methodology to include the use of Virtual Teleconference. Program implementation changed from public and group mobilization to the use of radio and information vans to reach out to project beneficiaries.

The project also revised its indicators following the change from Feed the Future to Global Food Security Strategy. 6 new indicators were modified to data collected to report progress towards targets. The revised indicators include;

1. EG.3.1-d Milestones in improved institutional architecture for food security policy achieved with United States Government (USG) support
2. CBLD-9 Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance [IM-level]
3. EG.3.2-24 Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level],
4. EG.3-2 Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs [IM-level]
5. GNDR-2 Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources [IM-level]
6. YOUTH-3 Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15-29) [IM-level]

Key activities implemented are; 1) Conduct of annual performance monitoring in the northern region; 2) Data collections for annual indicator reporting; 3) Conduct of internal data review and data quality assurance with USAID. These activities contributed to the broader outcomes of the project's monitoring and evaluation system, which include;

I. Annual Performance monitoring to enhance program and data quality for project reporting

To enhance data quality for reporting, the project conducted annual performance monitoring in northern region to assess the project's impact on stakeholders through engagements with women groups, Government Officials, CSOs and private sector actors. With the introduction of the grants, women group beneficiaries in Boriti Nyuriya have expanded their business and procured packaging equipment, which they are using to package processed shea for marketing. The performance monitoring also indicate that the support provided by the project on the annual sensitizations on planting for food and Jobs program has made it easy to access inputs from designated retailers without routing it through their husbands.

To enhance data quality and integrity USAID conducted a data quality assessment review (The team was made up of the M&E Specialists from Economic Growth, DRG and the METSS) to evaluate project data

on DAGI and USAID standard indicators that were to be reported to Washington in October to ensure the data meets to data quality assessment (DQA) requirements of data integrity, reliability, timeliness, etc in compliance with the DQA standard for USAID.

2. Strengthened data systems for impact reporting on project indicators

During FY20 the project revised its indicators following the USG change from the Feed the Future to Global Food Security Strategy. This resulted in the replacement of six (6) modified standard indicators from USAID. This modification resulted in the revision of the projects indicators and development of tools to measure impact of the projects activities. In quarter (Q4) of FY20, data was collected on the following indicators to measure impact of the project on its target group.

- a) EG.3.I-d Milestones in improved institutional architecture for food security policy achieved with USG support. The AGREE project contributed significantly to 4 policy elements of this standard indicator with significant impact on:
 - i. Inclusivity and stakeholder consultations. The project assessed the degree of inclusivity in consultation with key groups critical to the food security sector and the extent to which the different groups were engaged, including groups across government, the private sector and among non-governmental organizations. Through the project's multi-stakeholder platforms (DASGOPs), CSO/PSA Platforms and the WAPs, inclusivity and stakeholder consultations were broadened for citizens to be engaged in the citizen budget consultation processes and the inputs found space in their district and national budgets for 2017, 2018 and 2019 (see details of inclusion in citizen budgets on MMDA).
 - ii. Evidence based analysis and engagements. The project assessed the capacity and effectiveness of the organizations, processes, and fora responsible for collecting and analyzing data, and the extent to which evidence is used to inform or revise policy change such as improved dissemination of agricultural data across multiple Ministries; Improved timeliness and availability of food security-related surveys and survey analysis; and Public access to data on performance of the agriculture and food security sectors. Through citizen engagements using the community scorecards approach, civil society organizations generated evidence from beneficiaries in communities to influence the government's flagship program PFJ program. Through evidence-based analysis and engagement, the PFJ modalities were modified to include the cultivation of crops that were friendlier to women and broadly addressing women's needs such as access to inputs, seeds and fertilizer. The PFJ modalities have now become friendlier to females than before with 30 women platforms across 30 districts having access to PFJ package.
 - iii. Mutual accountability. An assessment of the effectiveness of the process by which multi Stakeholders (such as government, donors, private sector and civil society organizations) agree to be held responsible for the commitments they made to each other was done from the results of DAGI from 28 districts in 2018. Mutual accountability is supported by evidence that is collected and shared among all partners. The principle of mutual accountability is expected to stimulate and broaden the practice of benchmarking, mutual learning and harmonization of national development efforts. In promoting mutual accountability the project

conducted a self-assessment with the MMDAs using the DAGI to assess the performance of 28 MMDAs to ascertain their level of responsiveness to citizens needs in agriculture. About 88% of MMDAs in 2018 based on the milestone assessment are mutually accounting to its citizens by being responsive to their needs. (see details of MMDAs level of responsiveness in DAGI ranking).

- iv. Policy Implementation. This policy element assessed the detail of implementation plans, alignment with line ministry and agency responsibilities, adequacy of funding, and quality of monitoring and evaluation plans. Other areas include improved budget justification for policy implementation and adequacy of resources allocated for programs and sync with objectives. It seeks to see that Capacity of local government authorities to implement programs strengthened and monitoring system to track program and policy impacts established.
- v. To improve government coordination and implementation of its policies and programs, the project supported mandated government institutions such as the Office of the Head of Local Government Service to train Government of Ghana (GoG) staff on the new local government Act, and also on the use of public financial management tools to promote citizen participation. This contributed to the improved management practices adopted by GoG staff towards coordination and decentralization (see figure 2).

b) Adoption of improved management practice. To further measure impact of project interventions, data was collected for two impact indicators in quarter four.

EG.3.2-24 Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level]: Impact assessment shows that about 76% of individuals that the

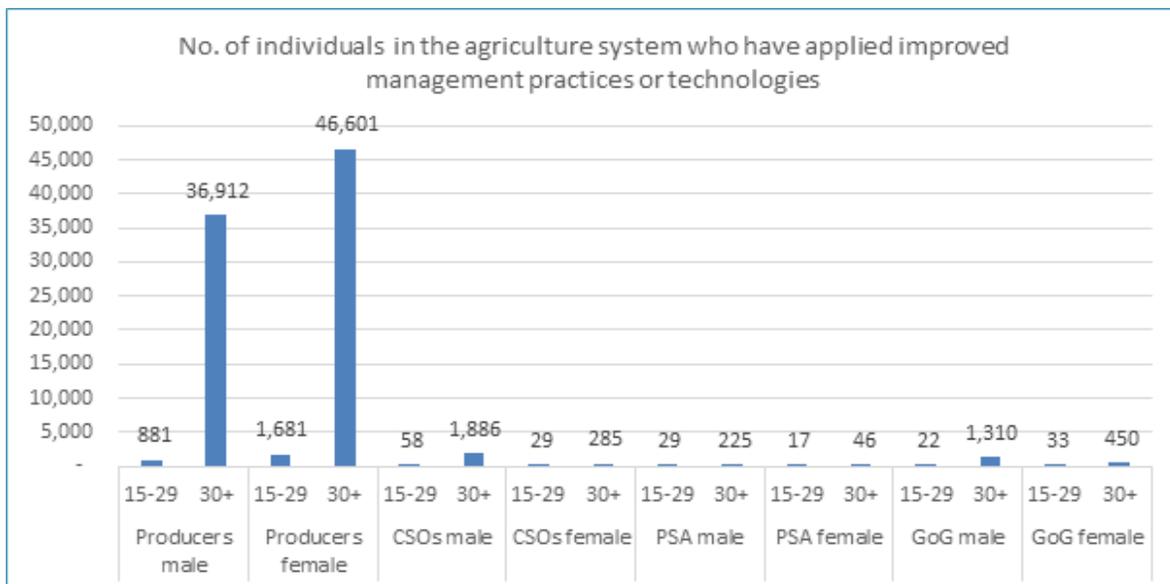
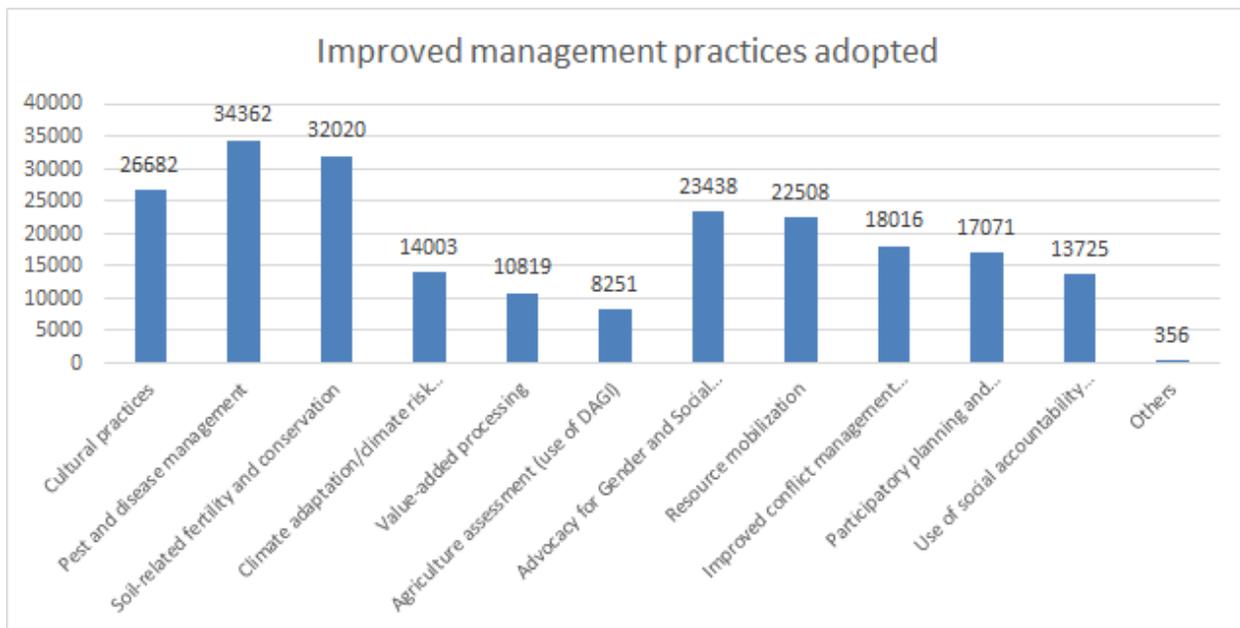


Figure 1 Number of individuals in the agricultural system who have applied improved management practices or technology

project promoted some improved management practices adopted the new technologies and management practices. (See analysis in Performance Indicator-tracking Table and figure 1 below).

Figure 1 above shows the categories of stakeholders engaged and (producers, CSOs, PSAs and GoG officials) the number of individuals applying improved management practices.

Figure 2 (below) shows the improved management practice areas adopted by the individuals. From figure 2, the highest level of adoption were in the areas of pest and disease management (16%) which addressed agro-chemical use and fall army worm control, cultural practices (12%) which addressed introduction to improved varieties, and technology for farming, and soil related fertility and conservation (14%).



- *CBLD-9 Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance [IM-level]:* AGREE recorded a higher percentage change in organizations with improved performance following training to women groups on farming as a business, engagement with GoG staff on the DAGI and training on decentralization. CSOs training on social accountability tools increased their engagement with duty bearers to track responsiveness to citizens' inputs during budget consultations and scorecards interface sessions on the Planting for Food and Jobs program. Smallholder farmers and input dealers training on agro chemical use impacted farmers' awareness and right use of agro-chemicals and the safety guides during application. (see details in PITT).

Documenting key project successes and case studies:

During the FY20, the team developed and documented 4 technical approaches and 6 case studies to support project impact reporting and evaluation of project achievements. The technical approaches highlighted innovations explored by the project to achieve successes. These approaches include mobilizing CSOs into regional platforms to serve as vehicles for demanding accountability; organizing Women into Platforms for strengthened joint actions, improving coordination through multi-stakeholder platforms and using electronic early warning and early response systems as mechanisms to manage conflicts.

AGREE video production

The project has commenced activities to produce video documentaries to illustrate project results on the four thematic areas of operation and the other on the overall AGREE project implementation approach and results. The project has procured the services of a video production consultant for professional support in this endeavor. The videos will show project results in strengthened capacity of institutions and improved coordination; enhanced CSO voice and ability to demand accountability; empowered women and built their capacity for joint actions through the provision of information and opportunities in agriculture; and dialogue promoted for peaceful coexistence. Another documentary will also cover the overall project approach and results. During the reporting period, the project team (Chief of Party, Communications Specialist, and Program Assistant) met the consultant to brief him on the deliverables and USAID branding and marking standards. Field shooting is expected to begin next week.

Revised Branding and Marking

Following the modification of the Cooperative Agreement relating to AGREE Activity, CARE submitted a revised BMP to USAID for the implementation of the project interventions. The BMP was developed in conjunction with donor (USAID) and Partners (ActionAid, SEND, WANEP, Peace Council, Mars, AAK, L3F, PAS). The revised BMP reflects the expanded scope of the project to include Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Women in Shea (WISH) Initiative, and COVID-19 Response Initiative. It also details the nature of public communications, program materials, and other items that will visibly bear the identity of USAID, W-GDP and "Feed the Future". Subject to USAID approval, the document will guide the consortium and implementing partners in the design and execution of promotional and communication materials, for the AGREE Activity. Critical to the plan is the recognition of the diverse branding, marking and communication requirements of AGREE partners; the plan establishes a system for internal partner consultation and coordination on branding, marking and communication plans.

4.0. CHALLENGES, LEARNING, RECOMMENDATIONS

CHALLENGES

A major constraint during FY20 was restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. Emerging COVID-19 issues resulted in a change in methodology to adapt to the new normal. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and based on Government's restrictions and protocols to cope with COVID-19, the project adapted to the use of virtual meeting platforms and reduced numbers during gatherings. This slowed the pace at which the project advanced towards achieving the set targets for some indicators. Also some activities which were contributing to measure some indicators such as sensitization on PFJ, and community score cards engagements were dropped, adapted or cancelled, and could not count on the general reach. Key activities were not implemented because of the revised method of implementation. As of the time this report was being written, many restrictions had been lifted, paving the way for activities which were placed on hold to be resumed.

LESSONS LEARNED

There is increased gender responsiveness by the departments of agriculture and the assemblies in project areas, as the WAPs are primary targets in their program implementation and service delivery. Also, the registration of the WAPs as cooperatives with the MMDAs has deepened the commitment of the assemblies to provide the necessary support to improve the economic livelihoods and incomes of women. Adaptation and flexibility enabled the project team to keep a focus on tasks and track accountability for time during tele-working periods. This also enabled the holding of WAPs engagements and CSO zonal meetings virtually to harvest field experiences.

5.0. APPENDIX:

INDICATOR PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT

Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation	Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments	
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Goal: Strengthened responsive governance for improved agriculture development in northern Ghana	District Agricultural Governance performance Index	Number of responsive districts	0	25	Highly responsive (90% and above)				0	Measures extent to which government is accommodating citizens' needs and priorities in the agricultural sector through increased investment in agriculture (budgetary allocation and expenditure) and enhanced implementation. Twenty two MMDAs out of a target of 25 districts at the end of FY20 demonstrated responsiveness to agricultural development.	
					Responsive (70% - 89%)				9		
					Fairly responsive (50% - 69%)				13		
					Poorly responsive (30% - 49%)				6		
					Not responsive (less than 30%)				0		
<i>IR 1: Improved coordination between key institutional actors in decentralized agricultural development</i>	,New indicator: EG.3-2 Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs [IM-level]	Total male	15-29	0	2,000	350	155	0	40	545	Activities that have contributed to this indicator for FY 20 are; interface meetings on 2019 planting for food and jobs, orientation of CSOs on grant disbursement and utilization, Training of communication and knowledge champions on media
			30+	0	18,000	1,063	942	52	666	2,723	
			Sub-total	0	20,000	1,413	1,097	52	706	3,268	
		Total female	15-29	0	3,000	246	130	2	68	446	
			30+	0	27,000	1,317	511	78	1,160	3,066	
			Sub-total	0	30,000	1,563	641	80	1,228	3,512	
		Total		0	50,000	2,976	1,738	132	1,934	6,780	
		Producers male	15-29			335	113	0	10	458	
			30+			915	495	0	137	1,547	
			15-29			241	117	1	55	414	

Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation		Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments	
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
		Producers female	30+			1,267	416	37	1,029	2,749	engagement, CSOs engagement on social accountability, WAPs revolving grants training, CSO platform virtual meetings, WAPs quarterly meetings, CSOs/PSA meeting and the dissemination of the agro-chemical research report.	
		CSOs male	15-29			8	19	0	12	39		
			30+			71	198	30	221	520		
		CSOs female	15-29			2	7	0	7	16		
			30+			21	55	23	24	123		
		PSA male	15-29			4	0	0	2	6		
			30+			18	8	2	57	85		
		PSA female	15-29			1	0	0	0	1		
			30+			1	1	0	11	13		
		GoG male	15-29			3	23	0	16	42		
			30+			59	241	20	251	571		
		GoG female	15-29			2	6	1	6	15		
			30+			28	39	18	96	181		
		Sub-IR 1.1: <i>Increased capacity of local authorities for coordination in agriculture service delivery</i>	New indicator: EG.3.2-24 Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level],	Total male	15-29	0	50,000	0	0	0		990
30+	0				0	0		40,333	40,333			
Total female	15-29			0	0	0		1,761	1,761			
	30+			0	0	0		47,381	47,381			
Sub-Total					0	0		0	90,465	90,465		
Producers male	15-29					0		0	0	881	881	
Producers male	30+					0		0	0	36,912	36,912	
Producers female	15-29					0		0	0	1,681	1,681	
	30+					0		0	0	46,601	46,601	
CSOs male	15-29					0		0	0	58	58	
	30+			0	0	0	1,886	1,886				
CSOs female	15-29			0	0	0	29	29				
	30+			0	0	0	285	285				
PSA male	15-29			0	0	0	29	29				

Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation		Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
			30+			0	0	0	225	225	
	PSA female		15-29			0	0	0	17	17	
			30+			0	0	0	46	46	
		GoG male		15-29			0	0	0	22	22
			30+			0	0	0	1310	1,310	
	GoG female		15-29			0	0	0	33	33	
			30+			0	0	0	450	450	
		Producers									
		<i>Cultural practices</i>							26183		
		<i>Pest and disease management</i>							33789		
		<i>Soil-related fertility and conservation</i>							31547		
		<i>Climate adaptation/climate risk management</i>							13852		
		<i>Value-added processing</i>							10649		
		<i>Agriculture assessment (use of DAGI)</i>							7046		
		<i>Advocacy for Gender and Social Inclusion</i>							22099		
		<i>Resource mobilization</i>							22339		
		<i>Improved conflict management practices</i>							16174		
		<i>Participatory planning and coordination</i>							15614		
		<i>Use of social accountability mechanisms</i>							12331		
		<i>Others</i>							320		
		CSOs									
		<i>Cultural practices</i>							332		
		<i>Pest and disease management</i>							361		
		<i>Soil-related fertility and conservation</i>							320		

Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation	Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
		<i>Climate adaptation/climate risk management</i>						116		
		<i>Value-added processing</i>						140		
		<i>Agriculture assessment (use of DAGI)</i>						250		
		<i>Advocacy for Gender and Social Inclusion</i>						570		
		<i>Resource mobilization</i>						169		
		<i>Improved conflict management practices</i>						780		
		<i>Participatory planning and coordination</i>						640		
		<i>Use of social accountability mechanisms</i>						634		
		<i>Others</i>						-		
		PSA								
		<i>Cultural practices</i>						168		
		<i>Pest and disease management</i>						212		
		<i>Soil-related fertility and conservation</i>						153		
		<i>Climate adaptation/climate risk management</i>						34		
		<i>Value-added processing</i>						30		
		<i>Agriculture assessment (use of DAGI)</i>						39		
		<i>Advocacy for Gender and Social Inclusion</i>						84		
		<i>Resource mobilization</i>						-		
		<i>Improved conflict management practices</i>						103		
		<i>Participatory planning and coordination</i>						143		
		<i>Use of social accountability mechanisms (PFM template)</i>						64		
		<i>Others</i>						20		

Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation	Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
		GoG								
		<i>Cultural practices</i>						-		
		<i>Pest and disease management</i>						-		
		<i>Soil-related fertility and conservation</i>						-		
		<i>Climate adaptation/climate risk management</i>						-		
		<i>Value-added processing</i>						-		
		<i>Agriculture assessment (use of DAGI)</i>						915		
		<i>Advocacy for Gender and Social Inclusion</i>						685		
		<i>Resource mobilization</i>						-		
		<i>Improved conflict management practices</i>						959		
		<i>Participatory planning and coordination</i>						674		
		<i>Use of social accountability mechanisms (PFM template)</i>						696		
		<i>Others</i>						16		
		Total Number	3		5	1		0	6	
Sub-IR 1.2: <i>Increased coordination and accountability between local government and non-state actors on planning and implementation</i>	Number of local mechanisms supported with USG assistance for citizens to engage with their sub-national governments	<i>District Assembly planning/budgeting (i.e. consultation, public hearings, approval)</i>		5	0	0	1		1	The local mechanisms for citizen engagements were 1. CSO platform 2. WAP meetings 3. DASGOP 4. RASGOP 5. District Interface meeting
		<i>Interface meetings (town hall meetings, policy/program review meetings, etc)</i>			0	1		1	1	
		<i>District Assembly Sub-Committee meetings</i>			0	0		0	0	
		<i>General Assembly meetings</i>			0	0		0	0	
		<i>Women in Agriculture Platform (WAP)</i>			1	0		1	1	

Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation	Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
		CSO Platform			1	0	1		2	6. District Annual action planning and Budgeting (MTDP) sessions
		DASGoP			1	0			1	
		RASGoP			0	0		0	0	
IR 2: Improved CSOs and private sector participation in decentralized agricultural development	New Indicator: CBLD-9 Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance [IM-level]	Women/Producer Groups		60%	0	0	0	35%	35%	The project provided training to CSOs, Government officials, the private sector and women groups to build capacity in proper agrochemical use and policy guidelines; improve farm business management; enhance group dynamics; increase resource mobilization; promote effective use of Public Financial Management (PFM) Templates for social accountability. The assessment gauged adoption and application of tools, guidance and best practices.
		CSOs		36%	0	0	0	15%	15%	

Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation	Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments		
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
		PSA		33%	0	0	0	33%	33%			
		GoG		76%	0	0	0	25%	25%			
Sub-IR 2.1: Increased CSOs and private sector awareness on agricultural policies and programs	Number of social accountability mechanism reports published	Total Number	Analysis	0	84	16	0	0	0	16	Social accountability reports published for the FY were from community score cards interface engagements on the 2019 PFJ and 2020 Citizen budget proposal.	
			Drafting	0		0	0	0	0			
			Consultation	0		8	21	1	21	51		
			Presentati on	0		0	6	0	29	35		
			Launching	0		0	0	0	17	17		
			Implement ation	0		0	6	30	15	51		
		Citizen Budget Monitoring	Analysis									0
			Drafting									0
			Consultation									0

Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation	Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
			Presentation					0		
			Launching					0		
			Implementation			6	30	15	51	
		Community Score Card	Analysis		15			15		
			Drafting					0		
			Consultation		8	21		29		
			Presentation			5		1	6	
			Launching					17	17	
			Implementation						0	
		Citizen Budget Proposal	Analysis					0		
			Drafting					0		
			Consultation				1	20	21	
			Presentation					25	25	
			Launching						0	
			Implementation						0	
		Position Papers	Analysis					0		
			Drafting						0	
			Consultation						0	
			Presentation				1	3	4	
			Launching						0	
			Implementation						0	
		Gender Audits	Analysis		1			1		
			Drafting						0	
			Consultation						0	

Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation	Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
									0	
									0	
									0	
		Social Audits							0	
				0					0	
				0				1	1	
				0					0	
				0					0	
				0					0	
				0					0	
				0					0	
Sub-IR 2.2: <i>Strengthened CSO and private sector capacity to demand accountability</i>	Number of agricultural issues at various stages of discussion or implemented at MMDAs level	Total Number	0	450	95	164	157	229	645	Issues raised from stakeholders were from PFJ and Citizen budget consultations. NOTE: Some issues were raised in previous FYs but were discussed and implemented in FY20.
		Raised by WAPs, CSOs and PSAs	0		95	164	40	143	442	
		Discussed/Considered	0		58	137	69	71	335	
		Implemented	0		75	50	48	15	188	
Sub-IR 2.3: <i>Improved policies, laws and institutional mechanisms for engagement</i>	New indicator:EG.3.1-d Milestones in improved institutional architecture for food security policy achieved with USG support	Disaggregate by level (sub-national, national, regional and international)			0	0	4	4		The project contributes to four policy element areas which include: Inclusivity and stakeholder consultation; Mutual Accountability; Evidence based analysis; Policy Implementation

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Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation		Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
IR3: Enhanced women's participation in agricultural opportunities	EG.3-f Abbreviated WEAI (Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index) [ZOI-level]	Index		0.703	0	0	0				Indicator will be measured at the USAID level, but AGREE will continue to document and share success stories
Sub-IR 3.1: Increased agricultural information to women's groups	GNDR-2 Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources [IM-level]	Female	Percent	0	60%	53%	37%	61%	63%	52%	A total of 3512 females were engaged in quarter of FY20 to increase their access to productive economic resources out of a total population of 6780 people engaged in the quarter.
Sub IR 3.2: Strengthened joint action among women's groups in the agriculture sector at local government level	YOUTH-3 Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15-29) [IM-level]	Male	15-29 years	0	10%	25%	14%	0%	6%	17%	The count is on youth with a focus on female youth. Thus the denominator is the subtotal denominator for female and not the total of the denominators for both male and female.
		Female	15-29 years	0		16%	20%	3%	6%	13%	
		total	15-29years			20%	16%	2%	6%	15%	
Sub-IR 4.1: Strengthened capacities of local authorities	Number of procedures or regulations in place to manage land	Number		2	5	0	0	0	4	4	Standard guidelines, protocols and procedures to manage land and

Goal / Result	Performance Indicator	Level of disaggregation	Baseline (FY2)	FY20 Target	Achieved				FY20 total Achieved	Performance remarks/comments
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
to manage conflicts	and natural resources – related conflicts									natural resource conflicts are: 1. Early warning and Early response mechanisms for managing conflicts, 2. Peace sensitization /education manual, 3. Alternative dispute resolution manual, 4. WANEP Ghana dialogue and mediation process: a practitioner’s guide.
Sub-IR 4.2: Enhanced early warning database to collect early warning information and mitigate threats	Number of land and natural resources – related conflicts mediated by local authorities.	Number	4		115	116	135	140	550	A total of 550 conflicts were identified out of which 39 were mediated and mediation is ongoing for 319 conflicts which border on chieftaincy, land and natural resources.
		Mediated (Managed)	0		2	2	15	20	39	
		Mediation Ongoing	4	5	77	78	81	83	319	
		Not Mediated	0		36	36	83	37	192	

