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

Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement Feed the Future Activity (ADVANCE II)

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Acronyms

ACDEP	Association of Church-based Development NGOs
ADVANCE	Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement
APO	Agricultural Production Officers
APSP	Agricultural Policy Support Project
ATT	Agricultural Technology Transfer
CCC	Collaborative Circle of COPs
COP	Chief of Party
DCA	Development Credit Authority
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FBEs	Farmer Based Enterprises
FBO	Farmer Based Organization
FIs	Financial Institutions
FinGAP	Financing Ghanaian Agriculture Project
FTF	Feed the Future
GAIP	Ghana Agricultural Insurance Pool
GAMSAP	Ghana Advanced Maize Seed Adoption Program
GCAP	Ghana Commercial Agriculture Project
GDA	Global Development Alliance
GGC	Ghana Grains Council
GAIDA	Ghana Agri-Input Dealers Association
ICOUR	Irrigation Company of the Upper Region
M4	Membership; Marketing; Money; Management
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NFs	Nucleus Farmers
OCAT	Organization Capacity Assessment Tool
RC	Regional Coordinators
SARI	Savannah Agricultural Research Institute
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ADVANCE II Project, Cooperative Agreement # Aid-641-A-14-0001, was awarded to ACDI/VOCA on February 5th, 2014 and is scheduled to end on September 30th, 2018. The overall goal of ADVANCE II is to increase competitiveness of the maize, rice and soybean value chains. The intermediate results are; (i) increased productivity in targeted commodities, (ii) increased market access and trade, and (iii) strengthened local capacity.

Aside from GAMSAP which is still in start-up mode, the project is implementing an aggressive technical program. In this reporting period of April, May, June of 2014, the project identified 142 Outgrower Businesses (OBs) working with 36,457 smallholder farmers (SHFs). Outgrower Businesses are nucleus farmers and aggregators working with smallholder farmers and providing them with mechanized services, production inputs and markets. Of the 142 OBs, 103 have been supported to develop crop and enterprise plans and budgets to guide their business operations; the remaining OBs will be completed next quarter. These “quick plans” will be upgraded to full 5-year business plans before the end of this year.

The project encourages agribusiness investments by strengthening market and supply linkages and connecting producers and buyers. During the period under review 19 such linkages between major buyers in the south and producers in the north resulted in the purchase of 1,165 mt of rice and 300 mt of maize valued at \$416,471 and \$156,740 respectively.

Crop demonstrations are a major means for extending good agricultural practices to farmers and the project partnered with 16 private sector input firms to establish 180 demonstrations sites for maize, rice and soybean. Partnering with the private sector to establish these demonstrations is a sound strategy for sustainability as private supply firms promote and sell their products to their benefit; and can easily continue the practice after the project ends.

During the reporting period, USAID approved the inclusion into ADVANCE II of the DuPont Pioneer Ghana Advanced Maize Seed Adoption Program (GAMSAP). The project will be officially recognized and promoted during the Northern Ghana Pre-harvest Agribusiness Forum to be held in October/November 2014. All staff required for the program have been recruited and are undergoing orientation, and vehicles and equipment procurement is in progress.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The ADVANCE II Project, Cooperative Agreement # Aid-641-A-14-0001, was awarded to ACDI/VOCA on February 5th, 2014 and is scheduled to end on September 30th, 2018. This four-year and eight month project is a follow-on to the successful Ghana Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement (ADVANCE I) project which ended in March 2014.

The overall goal of ADVANCE II is to increase competitiveness of the maize, rice and soybean value chains. The intermediate results are; (i) increased productivity in targeted commodities, (ii) increased market access and trade, and (iii) strengthened local capacity. The project was designed around these three components and project management is ensuring that strategies adopted for implementation will lead to establishment of sustainable systems and results.

This second quarterly report covers activities undertaken from April 1 to June 30, 2014. Whereas in the previous quarter we focused on start-up activities and project planning, in this quarter we initiated several programmatic interventions aimed at addressing seasonal needs of land preparation, planting, technology demonstration and farm planning.

2.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

2.1 Offices and Staffing

ADVANCE II has established three regional offices in Tamale, Bolgatanga and Wa which are fully operational and working on the ground in 49 districts in the three northern regions and one District in the Brong Ahafo Region (see Annex 1 for details). It is anticipated that the Kumasi office will be operational in September. Additional staff were recruited during the period under review, bringing the total to 54 technical staff (five specifically for GAMSAP), and 52 support and logistics staff working on the project; the staff roster is now 99% complete. During the reporting period the new Technical Director responsible for all technical programs, Allan Pineda, also took up his position and is based in the Tamale project office.

2.2 Collaboration with MOFA, FTF Projects, and Other Programs

Project management has engaged the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) at all levels to ensure that project activities remain in line with the objectives set out in the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy II (FASDEP II). At the field level, the Regional Coordinators of the project have met with MoFA Regional and District Directors to formally introduce and explain the project to them and seek collaboration with their staff. ADVANCE II is in the process of signing MOUs with the District Departments of Agriculture to guide our collaboration in the field regarding the establishment of demonstration sites among other activities. At the field level, MoFA Officers have been engaged mainly in providing technical support in training farmers and as resource persons on radio programs to educate farmers on best practices in the soya, maize and rice value chains.

ADVANCE II and the other FTF implementing partners have continued to meet regularly under the auspices of the 'Collaborative Circle of COPs' (CCC) to discuss issues of mutual interest as a means of efficiently and effectively managing resources, reaching overall FTF program goals and reducing the risk of duplicating efforts. Through the CCC, the projects have also shared actor lists, survey data and weekly updates. In addition the M&E and PR&C units of all FTF projects have met and it is planned for the grant managers to meet in July.

The project is also collaborating closely with the N2Africa project (IITA) to improve the productivity of soybean in northern Ghana. During the reporting period N2Africa trained five ADVANCE II field staff on proper handling and application of inoculants. The training has improved the knowledge and capacity of the staff to train farmers at the soybean demonstration sites. The N2Africa project also supplied inoculants for all the demonstration sites throughout the three northern regions and also sold them to Outgrower Businesses (OBs) and their outgrowers.

3.0 PROGRESS WITH TECHNICAL DELIVERY

Technical implementation of ADVANCE II is based on partnerships with the private sector, especially nucleus farmers and large buyers/processors of maize, rice and soybean, working with them to invest in the value chains of these commodities with the aim of increasing productivity and incomes of all actors in the chains. The project is designed around three main sub-purposes as follows:

Sub-Purpose 1: Increased agricultural productivity in targeted commodities

Sub-Purpose 2: Increased market access and trade of targeted commodities

Sub-Purpose 3: Strengthened capacity for advocacy and activity implementation

ADVANCE II is concerned that productivity increases, aligned with revenue increases, are long term and can be sustained beyond the project's duration. Table 1 provides a snapshot of technical implementation progress with project indicators. Only the indicators for which data has been collected during the quarter are presented. A more comprehensive progress on the indicators will be presented in the annual report to be submitted in October 2014.

Table 1: Performance indicators

ADVANCE II INDICATOR PERFORMANCE: February-June, 2014							
Indicator Source	Indicator Type	Indicator/Disaggregation	FY2014		Achieved to date (%)	Deviation Narrative	
			2014 Target	Achieved to Date			
CI	OP1	Number of direct project beneficiaries	35,000	36,457	104	Effective scouting and more nucleus farmers/FBOs joining the project due to ADVANCE 1 success	
		<i>Male</i>	21,000	24,187			
		<i>female</i>	14,000	12,260		Field teams are working hard to enroll more women in the coming season	
	OP2	Number of private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance	120	463	386	Effective scouting and also more actors – especially FBOs- joining the project as a result of ADVANCE I impact.	
FTF	OP3	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security trainings	15,000	1,902	13	It is due to the delay in the planting season as a result of erratic rainfall pattern. However this is picking up with the onset of the rains and the target is likely to be achieved by the end of the year.	
		<i>Male</i>		1,305			
		<i>Female</i>		597			

FTF	OP4	Value of agricultural and rural loans	\$500,000	\$263,451.20	53	\$189,190.00 value of loans is awaiting approval for disbursement. The loans achieved are mainly for production. Additional loans will be facilitated for aggregation, harvesting and threshing and purchasing of produce.
	OP5	Value of new private sector investment in agricultural sector or value chain	\$800,000	\$279,284.40	35	Additional investments are being made in production as the rains start and this value will increase during the next reporting period
CI	OP6	Number of value chain actors accessing finance	45	15	33	This number will increase as a result of access to finance for aggregation in the coming period

3.1 Sub-Purpose 1: Increased agricultural productivity in targeted commodities

Under this component, the project is focused on strengthening systems that support agribusiness; promote incentives for investments by farm businesses and smallholder farmers, and encourage the adoption of improved productivity enhancing technologies.

3.1.1 Strengthened sustainable systems for agribusiness services

In the period under review, the project identified 142 Outgrower businesses (OBs) working with 36,457 smallholder farmers as outgrowers (OGs). Of the 142 OBs, 103 have been supported to develop crop and enterprise plans and budgets with the following objectives of;

1. Ensuring a better understanding of how to cost their production activities per crop (maize, rice and soy).
2. Knowing the real cost of providing ploughing services to OGs and how to charge for them appropriately.
3. Estimating the expected profit margins if OBs and their outgrowers adopted various management practices, especially using appropriate production inputs.
4. Determining their working capital needs to enable them provide input support to their OGs and to aggregate produce after harvest for sale to the end market.

All the OBs working with the project will be supported to develop full business plans that will both guide the OBs and enable the project team to support their sustainable growth. The plans will also determine what financial assistance is required through commercial credit or what incentives are needed through grants. For the OBs, the crop and enterprise budgets serve as a first step toward comprehensive business plans. A business diagnostics tool has been developed and is currently being used to collect information on the OBs for the development of the business plan. So far, 47 OBs are being supported to develop business plans, and eight of them are reviewing completed draft plans.

In addition to providing ploughing services, OBs are encouraged to support outgrowers with inputs such as certified seeds and fertilizer to enable them to increase their productivity. Some OBs (11 to date) have been assisted to access credit worth \$244,000 from Financial Institutions at an average interest rate of 30% per annum to purchase inputs for that purpose (see Annex 2). Some of these loans were facilitated by the project using purchase agreements with Royal Danemac (a soybean processor in Kumasi) with Kharma Farms and Bogu seeds. The same arrangement was adopted by Sadia Awuni of Nasia Rice Mill for the Dawadawa FBOs in Kintampo.

NF Mentoring of New Actors

To encourage and support newly identified NFs, the project has put in place a mentoring program where experienced NFs are encouraged to advise, share their experience and guide the emerging NFs to learn how to manage the outgrower business. A total of 12 successful NFs

from ADVANCE I have been identified and are playing this mentoring role. Project staff will monitor this new activity closely to learn lessons and improve its effectiveness.

Facilitating a wide distribution of certified seeds, chemicals and fertilizers

The project facilitated access to inputs for 39 outgrower businesses by linking them to agro inputs dealers; 6 OBs from Northern Region, 16 from Upper East, and 17 from Upper West Region. Among the inputs were improved seed for maize, rice and soya, inoculants, herbicides and fertilizer. Participating input dealers come from various levels (importers, distributors, and retailers) and include: Wienco, Chemico, Dizengoff, Antika at Wa, Simple Prince at Bolgatanga and N2 Africa/SARI.

Radio Listenership clubs

In the last 3 months, North Star FM created 28 more Radio Listenership clubs in Savelugu Nanton, Tolon and Kumbungu; bringing their total number of dedicated listenership clubs to 75 comprising 2,150 farmers in seven districts of the Northern Region.

Radio Listenership Clubs are a means of getting groups of farmers to sit together and listen to agricultural programs, discuss them and share their experiences. It is an efficient way to reach out to large numbers of farmers with information on GAPs and other agribusiness information.

3.1.2 Strengthened incentives for smallholder investments

The project encourages agribusiness investment through market and supply linkages by facilitating interactions between producers and buyers. During the period under review 19 buyer/seller deals were completed for 1,165 mt of rice and 300 mt of maize valued at ¹\$416,471 and \$156,740 respectively (see details in Annex 4).

3.1.3 Increased adoption of improved productivity-enhancing technologies

To promote the use of improved seeds and educate farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), the ADVANCE ICT Outreach Specialist assisted two radio stations to sign agreements with two input firms to run radio promotions and educational campaigns to boost sales of their products. North Star FM and Heritage seeds are using this medium to reach out to about 2000 farmers in nine districts of the Northern Region. Similarly, Antiku Enterprise, in Upper West Region has invested \$1,926 in airtime costs on W93.5 FM, a radio station in Wa, to promote sales and distribution of his etubie, obatanpa and abontem certified maize seeds, soybean seeds and Jasmine 85 rice seeds. This has resulted in increased sales in all his four shops in Wa Municipal and 55 retail shops across the region. Mr Abdulai Antiku Seidu remarked,

“The radio program has had a very big impact on my business. Last year’s 2013 season, we sold all our seeds and other inputs that used to be locked up in our stores. This has encouraged me to increase my investments in these radio promotions. It works excellently. It helps me to sell”

¹ A rate of \$1 to GHS2.7 (which is the average exchange rate from January 1 to June 30, 2014) has been used in converting all amounts from Ghana Cedis to US Dollars.

In total, the project is working with 18 radio stations in the three northern regions to produce agricultural shows using resource persons from MoFA, the Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Irrigation Company of the Upper Region (ICOUR) while Farm Radio International provides knowledge on how to improve content, farmer participation and how to use drama to produce entertaining programs.

Standard Protocols and Training Modules

Standard protocols for the production of maize, rice and soybean under recommended crop management practices have been developed in collaboration with Dupont Pioneer, Dizengoff Ghana, Wienco Agricultural Services, YARA and CHEMICO. These form the basis for training farmers on GAPs before and during planting at the demonstration sites. These protocols will be further disseminated through MoFA, SARI, some selected input dealers and farmers, as well as the Agricultural Technology Transfer (ATT) Project.



A Senior Agronomist from Dupont Pioneer demonstrating the demarcation and set-up of a maize demonstration plot in the Northern region

Nucleus Farmer OG Farmer Services (Extension)

This activity, which had a target of 20 NFs this year, has started with 23 participating NFs who have been identified and sensitized on the significance of training and advising their outgrowers on GAPs. Subsequently, 22 field agents working for 18 NFs were trained in good agricultural practices on maize, rice and soya. In addition, agents were trained in business record keeping, and the financial risks and benefits of investing in SHFs. These trainings were implemented with technical support from MoFA. The agents and NFs who were trained are expected to pass the knowledge on to their outgrowers. Nine of the NFs have established offices as venues for formal interactions and coordination of field and business operations and for keeping records.

Two of these NFs have hired a total of six field agents equipped with motor bikes and are establishing demonstration plots in collaboration with ADVANCE II. These and others will be further supported through investments in additional training and, where necessary, with motorbikes and computers using the grant facility.

Interns support to OBs

Sixteen interns from the University for Development Studies (UDS) were recruited by the project to augment the business team. They were trained on record keeping and business management so they can, in turn, assist the OBs to keep proper business records and manage their businesses efficiently. The OBs have been advised to employ administrative assistants to continue the work when the interns go back to school and ten of them have already made this investment.

GAP Training by NFs and MoFA

Over 1,640 farmers including 1,060 (64.52%) men and 583 (35.48%) women have so far been trained in GAPs at 37 demonstration sites representing 20% of the target demonstration sites, as of the end of June. The slow start to the rains has prevented all 180 sites from being used for training this quarter. The training covered topics including; seed selection and germination testing, proper land preparation, row planting, appropriate use of agro-chemicals, fertilizer application (when and rates to apply), integrated pest management, proper weed control, and right time of harvesting for all three commodities. Also, the training covered transplanting and water management for rice farmers and the use of inoculants for soybean farmers.



An Agricultural Extension Agent training farmers on rice transplanting prior to setting up a demonstration plot at Gigani in the Kumbungu District of the Northern Region

3.1.4 Private Sector Supported Demonstration

Crop demonstrations are a major activity for extending recommended agricultural practices to NFs and their outgrowers. It also helps input companies to promote and sell their products to the OB and OG markets. Under ADVANCE II, demonstrations are established with the active support and participation of input companies and NFs. During the period under review the project planned to collaborate with about 10 private sector partners to establish 170 demonstrations with NFs. As at the close of June, 16 private sector partners had joined the program (see Table 2) to carry out a total of 180 demonstrations in the three selected commodities.

Table 2: List of Private Sector Partners in 2014 Demonstrations

	Private Company	Location	Type(s) of Inputs
1	Wienco	Accra	MRS seeds, Fertilizers, Herbicides
2	DWA	Accra	M&R fertilizers and Herbicides
3	Chemico	Tema	MRS fertilizers & Herbicides
4	Pioneer Hi-Bred	USA	Seed Maize
5	YARA	Tamale	Maize & Rice fertilizers
6	Heritage Seeds	Tamale	Seed for Maize & Soybean
7	Lexbog	Tamale	Seed rice
8	Meridian Agric Services	Bolga	Maize seeds
9	Simple Prince	Bolga	Seeds, fertilizers and herbicides for M&R,
10	Cumik	Kumasi	Fertilizers for rice
11	Antika	Wa	Seed maize, fertilizers
12	N2 Africa	Tamale	Soybean Inoculant
13	Sadia Rice Mills	Ejisu	Rice seeds
14	Premium Foods Ltd	Kumasi	Seeds, fertilizers & herbicides
15	AMG	Kumasi	Fertilizer
16	Rice Aggregating Group	Ejura	Rice seeds

Of the 180 sites, the land has been prepared for 164 and 37 of them have been planted (see Table 3).

Table 3: Number of demonstration established as at June 30, 2014

	NR	UER	UWR	TOTAL
Maize	33	27	27	87
Rice	35	11	3	49
Soybean	20	10	14	44
Total	88	48	44	180

3.2 Sub-Purpose 2: Increased market access and trade of targeted commodities

The ADVANCE II strategy for increasing market access and trade is guided by the three enablers of competitiveness within its theory of change (capacity, incentives and relationships). ADVANCE II will help to establish incentives from identified end market opportunities for lead firms, FBOs, financial institutions and BDS providers to invest in the VC and build their capacity to respond to these opportunities. Congruently, the project will facilitate mutually beneficial relationships to capitalize on incentives through market facilitation that matches appropriate buyers and sellers as well as service providers to technical and financing needs.

3.2.1 Increased private sector investment to support value chain development

As part of their strategy to capture a significant share of the market for farm machinery, John Deere Financial signed an MOU with Sinapi Aba Savings and Loans (SASL) to provide credit for farmers to acquire John Deere tractors. In collaboration with AFGRI Ghana Limited, John Deere's local dealer, John Deere Financial will absorb 4% of the interest rate SASL offers. ADVANCE II business services staff introduced a number of farmers to the facility including Kharma Farms which has recently acquired two John Deere tractors at the cost of \$48,148 at a rate of 14% percent (instead of 18%) repayable over 5 years. Two more OBs will also benefit from this scheme if their loans are approved by SASL. As part of the deal, John Deere will offer periodic tractor operations and management trainings to OBs.

3.2.2 Improved capacity of men and women to participate in markets

The project started a country-wide lead firm survey in the Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions in June 2014. The study team visited 60 commodity buyers and processors comprising 34 poultry farms, 11 soybean processors, 5 rice millers, 2 maize processors and 8 aggregators/traders of maize, rice and soybean.

The firms visited were clustered in four geographical areas as follows.

- Kumasi and its environs
- Dormaa Ahenkora and Sunyani
- Techiman
- Nkoranza and Aframsso

Forty-three (43) of the 60 firms visited have been classified as immediate prospects as buyers of rice, maize and soya produced by the NFs and FBOs in northern Ghana. Thirty-five (35) have expressed interest in undertaking trade missions to meet with producers in the north and broker trade agreements. The survey in the Greater Accra, Northern and Upper East Regions began in the last week of June and will continue till the end of July while that for the Upper West, Western, Central, Eastern, and possibly the Volta Regions is scheduled for August 2014.

The results of the lead firm survey will determine the number of firms that will be further supported by the ADVANCE market unit to expand their supply chains, and the specific support and advisory services that each firm will need.

3.2.3 Ghana Grains Council

ADVANCE II is continuing to support the Ghana Grains Council (GGC) to review and improve on the Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) started under ADVANCE I. In May 2014 GGC engaged an international consultant to review the warehouse receipt system (WRS) and to make recommendations on its improvement. The consultant has completed his field enquiry and a draft report is expected in early August 2014. This will be followed by the revision of GGC's operating manuals on WRS. The process to recruit a second consultant to develop a strategic plan for GGC is underway (see Annex 3).

Although GGC has also included rice (paddy and milled) and soybean for warehouse receipting, receipting of those commodities will wait for the recommendations to be reported and adopted.

3.2.4 Preseason Agribusiness Forum

The 3rd Northern Ghana Pre-Season Planning and Networking Forum was held on April 24th, 2014 at the University for Development Studies International Conference Center in Tamale and was attended by over 400 agricultural sector stakeholders. Participants at the agribusiness forum and exhibition event included nucleus farmers, input dealers and importers, equipment dealers, seed growers, mechanization service providers, ICT firms and financial institutions from across the country and USAID representatives.

Hosted by the Ghana Agri-Input Dealers Association (GAIDA) in collaboration with USAID's ATT and ADVANCE projects as well as IFDC and AGRA, the value chain actors interacted to establish direct market linkages prior to the 2014 planting season. With the theme "*Technology Applications for Improved Production*", the event exposed the participants to new agricultural machinery and other inputs for agricultural production; agricultural credit; an overview of banned pesticides and agrochemicals; and ICT applications for disseminating agricultural information.

Key activities of the day included a multi-company agribusiness exhibition and networking session called the "Market Place" where participants had the opportunity to dialogue and connect with business service providers and plan for the 2014 planting season.

3.3 Sub-Purpose 3: Strengthened capacity for advocacy and activity implementation

ADVANCE II will increase incentives to participate in the upgrades and benefits associated with VC competitiveness by improving the policy environment. The project will build organizational capacity to affect change and promote investment and improve the business enabling environment for targeted VCs. The project will also strengthen VC relationships that increase stakeholder collaboration, and deepen its local partnerships through a robust capacity building program built around USAID's Organizational Capacity Assessment process.

3.3.1 Strengthened advocacy capacity of value chain actors and their associations

A survey was conducted this quarter to identify key actors and issues that require policy intervention, as well as civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose capacities to undertake policy advocacy was assessed in detail. The main objectives of the survey were to;

- Introduce ADVANCE to district assemblies
- Identify value chain actors including maize, rice and soybean farmers, aggregators, and processors as well as input dealers and related service providers in the three value chains
- Identify existing and potential platforms for advocacy at the district level
- Identify policy issues that affect the value chains of the maize, rice and soybean in the district
- Identify other agricultural related projects and NGOs in the region

The survey, which was conducted in the three northern regions and at the national level, identified and held discussions with 87 value chain actors and stakeholders. The survey identified organizations and agricultural issues at the district and regional levels that need policy interventions. Also, various platforms were identified during the exercise that will be used for advocacy fora in the near future:

- National Agricultural Investment Forum
- District Value Chain Committees
- Seed Producers Association of Ghana
- Ghana Agriculture Input Dealers Association
- Steering Committee of the Rice Sector Support Project
- Secondary and tertiary FBOs

These platforms will be used to discuss the relevant policy issues of interest to the stakeholders, and the project will assist them to develop their capacity and skills to advocate for change.

Fertilizer subsidy policy

A major policy issue that arose during the reporting period is the uncertainty surrounding the fertilizer subsidy program. The government launched the subsidy program in 2008 to promote an increase in the use of fertiliser as a means of improving crop yields. The immediate objective

was to restore fertilizer prices to the 2007 levels and ensure uniformity in prices across the country². This was expected to reduce food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition, and rural poverty in line with the millennium development goals. There have been perennial delays and shortages in the supply of the subsidised fertilizer since its introduction, and deep into the 2014 crop season, there remains uncertainty about implementation of the program for this year. ADVANCE II, as part its mandate of improving the policy environment for value chain development, held meetings with the MoFA department in charge of the subsidy program to gain better insight of the direction of government but this did not result in much clarity. The project team is monitoring the situation in the field to ascertain the potential impact this could have in production this year.

Consultations with District Assemblies to identify investment potentials

The project met with 13 District Assemblies to discuss and learn about their planning and priorities related to agriculture in the districts. It was realized that the District Assemblies do not have specific plans for promoting agriculture in their districts. Their medium-term development plans do not specifically address promoting agricultural investments but rather contain broad developmental areas with limited detail and specificity on agricultural investment priorities. Almost all the District Assemblies expressed interest in exploring and documenting their potential in agriculture for investors and ADVANCE II will support them to undertake this exercise.

3.3.2 Strengthening local institutions

During the reporting period, 717 farmer based organizations (FBOs) were identified in the three northern regions, made up of both registered and non-registered groups (Northern-186; Upper East-321; Upper West-210). Of the FBOs identified, 90 were assessed using the M4 tool in all three regions (Northern- 62; Upper East 11; Upper West- 17). The ACDI/VOCA M4 (Membership; Marketing; Money; Management) tool is a participatory survey for assessing capacity and identifying development priorities for farmer groups, associations and cooperatives. Based on the capacity gaps identified for the 96 FBOs, the project is designing capacity building plans for these FBOs to transform them into farmer based enterprises (FBEs). The tool will also be used to track the performance of the FBOs (now FBEs) annually to assess their progress. In addition to the FBOs, 28 local institutions were identified within the districts and have completed their Organization Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT). The OCAT is used to assess and identify capacity gaps that exist in

The M4 Tool

The M4 tool is used for assessing capacity and identifying development priorities for farmer groups, associations and cooperatives. For membership, the tool assesses recruitment, retention, annual general meetings among others. For marketing, it assesses participation, buyers, quality, storage, marketing plans etc. For money; it assesses availability of a treasurer, accounting procedures, profit and loss, record keeping etc. Under Management, the tool assesses legal status of the group, bylaws, Board of Directors, business plans and operating procedures.

² IFPRI (2009). Fertilizer Subsidies in Africa: Are Vouchers the Answer? International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). IFPRI Issue Brief 60

organizations. The tool assesses governance, human resource management, financial management, administration, organizational management, program management, and performance management. After the assessment, an action plan will be developed to address the priority areas for capacity building. The tool will be used annually to determine the progress made by the organizations after they have been trained.

3.4 Cross Cutting and Special Programs

ADVANCE II has four cross cutting areas of environment, gender, grants, and public relations and communications. Special programs under ADVANCE II include the GAMSAP program which is a GDA partnership between USAID and DuPont Pioneer; managed under ADVANCE II. Progress in these programs is presented in this section.

3.4.1 Ghana Advance Maize Seed Adoption Program (GAMSAP)

On 12th June 2014, USAID approved the inclusion of the \$4 million GAMSAP program into the ADVANCE II workplan and budget. This approval also granted ADVANCE II the authority to operate GAMSAP below its mandated zone of influence – North Ghana - and into Brong Ahafo and Ashanti Regions below the 8th parallel. The project will be announced and recognized during the northern Ghana pre-harvest agribusiness event to be held in October/November 2014.

Start-up activities have been fast-tracked to ensure field activities commence before the minor rainy season in the areas below the 8th parallel. To date, contracts have been completed with the Project Director, three senior agronomists and one business services officer to operate in new project locations surrounding Sunyani, Techiman, Ejura and Kumasi. In the areas above the 8th parallel, GAMSAP activities will be integrated into regular ADVANCE II activities. In addition, an M&E officer and four drivers will be recruited by the end of July. An induction program for staff will be held in July.

Procurement of equipment and services

The process for procuring vehicles, computers and other equipment has commenced and will be completed by mid-August. A draft scope of work for a consultancy to conduct a baseline study on GAMSAP within its area of operation below the 8th parallel is at an advanced stage and the baseline study will commence in August.

Seed for Demonstrations in areas in South Ghana

Pioneer Overseas Corporation has already shipped 262.44kg of Pioneer 30Y87 and Pioneer 30F32 hybrid seed for demonstrations at areas to be identified below latitude 8°. Efforts are underway to get the necessary paperwork to clear the seeds from the airport by the end of July. This seed will be used to establish 100 demonstration plots in the Brong-Ahafo and Ashanti Regions this year. An earlier consignment of 100kg of seed for the establishment of 30 demonstrations in the ADVANCE II areas above the 8th parallel has been distributed to the regional teams and is being planted as the rains allow.

Workshop on Protocols and agronomy for Pioneer Hybrids

Two agronomist from Nigeria and USA are expected in-country from 14th – 19th July to train 43 agronomists including Agricultural Production Officers of ADVANCE II, Agricultural Extension Agents of MoFA and the senior technical team of ADVANCE II. This workshop will help in

establishing a common understanding on issues such as branding of signposts and labels, layout of demo plots, protocols and procedures for field days.

3.4.2 Grants Program

In the reporting period, a Finance and Grants Specialist was recruited to assist the Operations and Grants Manager. The \$5million grant program targets two major areas: 1. providing innovation and investment incentives and, 2. supporting local partnership institutions to upgrade their capacity to implement projects.

The grant program was initiated to provide incentives to farmers to purchase production and harvesting equipment for soya, maize and rice for the 2014 farming season. A discount of 70 percent is applied towards the purchase of the selected agricultural equipment by beneficiaries from identified and shortlisted vendors. The project will demand 30 percent cash leverage to be paid by selected beneficiaries on the agricultural equipment purchased from the shortlisted vendors. The eligible equipment includes but is not limited to dibblers, planters, animal traction equipment, threshers and shellers.

Seven (7) vendors have been identified for the program, and as at the end of June 2014, five (5) nucleus farmers had applied for grants to purchase multi-crop planters and tractor-towed ploughs worth \$12,222. The equipment will assist the beneficiary nucleus farmers and out growers to enhance their production efficiency.

A major part of the grants program is aimed at supporting local institutions (non-governmental organizations and farmer-based organizations) to build their capacity to implement development projects as well as better manage their organizations.

The Ghana Grains Council (GGC), which has previously worked with the ADVANCE Project to implement the warehouse receipt program, has been awarded a grant of US\$318,448 to build on the initial success of the first phase of the Warehouse Receipt System (WRS). This will enable them to achieve their vision of establishing a viable regulated warehouse receipt system to support an efficient grains trade sector in Ghana. The key objectives of this grant are to:

- i. Enhance grains market development by promoting grain actors' participation in the GGC WRS to trade in graded grain.
- ii. Optimize GGC members' benefits through the development of diversified service delivery packages.
- iii. Influence policy through advocacy on major issues that limit the efficiency of the grains sector/WRS.

Being climate smart

The rain forecasts, early warning alerts for severe-weather, and seasonal forecasts enable farmers to streamline operations and reduce downtime.

A farmer participant at the training at Bolga commented "*Ignitia Weather is very useful. Last year, I received Ignitia weather alerts and it was very helpful. One day, the weather was cloudy and my out growers said it was going to rain but I told them that it will not, based on the weather information I had received from Ignitia on my mobile phone. It did not rain and the out growers later said I was a "Juju man".*

See Annex 5 for a list of grants made during the reporting period. This will be updated with every report.

3.4.3 Environment and Climate Smart Approaches

As farmers are affected by climate change and subsequent unpredictable rainfall patterns, the need for reliable weather information has become critical. The project contracted Ignitia weather forecasters to provide rainfall information to 2,500 project beneficiaries including nucleus farmers and lead farmers for the 2014 planting season. So far, 1,297 farmers are receiving the alerts while the remaining farmers are being registered and put on the system. These alerts are delivered to farmers through SMS and it covers a geographical range of 3 km from their location.

By receiving this information the farmers can determine when to undertake various agricultural activities during the production and harvesting period. In order to ensure that the farmers understand how to use the product, the project, in collaboration with Ignitia, organized 12 training sessions for 194 participants including nucleus farmers, FBO Leaders and lead farmers in the three northern regions. These actors in turn will share the knowledge with their outgrowers. The actors were trained on how to interpret the weather symbols indicating heavy rain, low chance of rain, no rain, high chance of rain, and likely rain. They were taught the basic principles of probabilities to ensure proper understanding of the forecasts.



A trainer from Ignitia showing farmers how to identify weather symbols on their mobile phone during a training session

In addition to the climate smart approaches, the project is fully conscious of the need to ensure environmental compliance by all project beneficiaries. For this reason, an environmental screening was conducted for the GGC as part of the process of awarding them a grant for their operations and continued development of the warehouse receipt system. This screening will remain part of the standard operations for all grants made to project beneficiaries. Also, an environmental section has been incorporated in the business diagnostic tool for nucleus farmers and outgrower businesses to ensure that their activities do not infringe on any environmental regulations. The environmental section covers areas relating to safe application of pesticides and climate adaptation.

3.4.4 Public Relations and Communication

The Public Relations & Communications (PR&C) Unit of the project ensures visibility of the project and highlights its activities through the media and USAID promotional systems including that of the Feed the Future initiative.

Project Visibility

Commodity-specific pull-ups, project profiles and vinyl banners indicating project goals were produced for all four project offices to inform beneficiaries and the public about ADVANCE II activities and mark venues for events. Signposts were developed and branded appropriately for all demonstration sites while project management issued press releases through radio stations collaborating with the project in northern Ghana to introduce ADVANCE II to local stakeholders. This helped to reach out to many potential project beneficiaries.

Also, the launch of the project was covered by a number of media houses including:

- Business & Financial Times, April 16, 2014, page 35
- Daily Guide, April 17, 2014, Page 12
- Ghanaian Times, April 26, 2014 back page
- <http://vibeghana.com/2014/04/14/usaidth-to-scale-up-agricultural-investment-cereal>

See Annex 6 for the three stories published in the newspapers above.

Contribution to USAID Communications

A total of 16 weekly bullets were submitted to USAID during this quarter. The bullets highlighted various field activities: farmers' access to inputs, equipment and credit, active involvement of private sector in setting up demonstration sites, developing farm budgets for outgrower businesses, and training smallholders on good agronomic practices.

Quarterly Newsletter

The first edition of ADVANCE II's "Quarterly Newsletter" highlighting its start-up and significant accomplishments was published and distributed to over 1,000 recipients including partners, clients and actors involved in the project, in both electronic and printed form.

Photo Contest

PR & C launched a Staff Photo Contest on July 2, 2014 to enable staff take and submit good quality field photos that show the project's activities and positive impact/success.

4.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During the reporting period project management completed and submitted a draft Performance Management Plan (PMP) to the Mission. The project team also reviewed and revised all data collection tools under ADVANCE and developed new ones to capture data for the new indicators under ADVANCE II. All the M&E staff have been trained and data collection is ongoing in the field.

4.1 Performance Management Plan

ADVANCE II Project Performance Management Plan was submitted to USAID within 60 days as stipulated in the cooperative agreement. Management received comments on the plan and are working to address the issues raised with support from the ACDI/VOCA Regional M&E Specialist based in the Accra office.

4.2 Data Collection and Analysis

In the first year, the project has a target of reaching 35,000 farmers. To ensure that adequate data is collected on all beneficiaries, the M&E Unit conducted a three week exercise to collect personal details from farmers who have been identified to receive project assistance, including their geographical location, production and household information. For this exercise, 54 persons made up of Agricultural Production Officers (APOs), interns and enumerators were trained to administer the data collection instrument in the project's Zone of Influence (ZOI). Led by the APOs into communities, the interns and enumerators with support from the M&E Officers have collected data on over 36,000 farmers as at the end of June 2014 (see details in [Annex 7](#))

).

4.3 Data Quality Strategy

In order for stakeholders and management to have confidence in project data, management is in the process of revising the ADVANCE I Data Quality Strategy to improve on it using the experience of ADVANCE I. All staff will be trained and provided a copy to guide project data collection, collation and management process. Data quality strategies and validation processes are incorporated into all ADVANCE II trainings and data collection exercises at all levels of responsibility. Primary data collectors, mostly the field staff, Data Entry Clerks and the M&E Officers are all responsible for quality assurance at all project level.

The first internal DQA exercise is planned to take place in September and will be conducted by the ACDI/VOCA Regional M&E Specialist and this will subsequently be done annually in August. These exercises will ensure that the project meets the USAID DQA standards, especially with the five data quality standards (validity, reliability, integrity, precision and timeliness).

Annex 1: ADVANCE II Operational Districts and Commodities

Field Office /Region	District	Commodity	BF
Wa Office	Wa Municipal	Soya	Desmond
	Wa East	Maize	Boniface
	Wa West	Maize	Desmond
	Nadowli	Maize and Soya	Boniface
	Sissala East	Maize	Jamil
	Sissala West	Maize and Soya	Jamil
	Lawra	Soy bean	Boniface
	Lambussie-karni	Rice, Soya and Maize	Boniface
	Jirapa	Rice	Boniface
Wa Overlap into NR	Issah Daffiama Bussie	Maize and Soya	Boniface
	Sawla-Tuna-Kalba	Maize	Desmond
	Bole	Maize	Desmond
Bolgatanga	Bolga Municipal	Maize, Rice	Sandra
	Talensi Nabdam	Maize, Rice	Sandra
	Bongo	Maize, Rice	Sandra
	Builsa North	Maize, Rice, Soy	Rashid
	Builsa South	Maize, Rice	Rashid
	Kasena Nankana West	Maize, Rice	Rashid
	Kasena Nankana Municipal	Maize, Rice	Rashid
	Bawku Municipal	Maize, Rice, Soy	Jude
	Bawku West	Maize, Rice, Soy	Jude, Sandra
	Binduri	Maize, Rice, Soy	Jude
	Pusiga	Maize, Rice, Soy	Jude
	Garu Tempene	Maize, Rice, Soy	Peter
	Bolga Overlap into NR	Mamprugu Maoduri	Maize, Rice
East Mamprusi		Maize, Rice, Soy	Peter
West Mamprusi		Maize, Rice	Peter
Bunkpurugu Yonyo		Maize, Rice, Soy	Peter
Tamale	Bunkpurugu - Yunyoo	Soya	Ignatius Tindjina
	Central Gonja	Maize	Charles Yaro
	East Gonja	Rice/Maize/Soya	Charles Yaro
	West Gonja	Maize	Charles Yaro
	Savelugu/Nanton	Rice/Maize	Charles Yaro
	Tamale Metro	Maize/Rice	Issah, Michael & Godfred
	Tolon	Rice/Maize/Soya	Godfred & Ignatius
	Kumbungu	Rice/Maize	Godfred Nyamekye
	Savelugu		Charles Yaro
	Karaga	Rice/Soya	Yaro, Godfred & Ignatius
	Gushiegu	Maize/Soya	Tindjina & Michael
	Saboba	Maize/Soya	Issah, Michael & Ignatius
	Kpandai	Maize	Michael & Issah
	Mamprugu Moaduri	Rice	Godfred
	Mion	Maize	Issah/Michael
	Chereponi	Soya	Ignatius
	Nanumba North	Maize/Soya	Michael & Issah
	Sagnarigu	Maize/Rice	Issah, Michael & Godfred
	Tatale Sangule	Rice	Godfred Nyamekye
	West Mamprusi	Rice/Maize	Godfred & Charles Yaro
Yendi Municipal	Rice/Soya	Godfred & Ignatius	
Zabzugu	Rice	Godfred Nyamekye	
Tamale Overlap into BA	Kintampo North	Maize/Rice	Kwame Anokye

Annex 2: Loans Facilitated

Actor	Location	Loan Amount GHC	Financial Institution	Purpose
Ganye Agro Chemical	Northern Region	100,000	ECOBANK	Working Capital
Yong Dapkemyili (OB)	Northern Region	3,700	Sinapi Aba Savings and Loans (SASL)	Purchase plough disc
Kharma Farms	Northern Region	130,000	SASL	Purchase 2 John Deere Tractors
Bogu Seeds	Northern Region	20,000	SASL	Production loan
Kharma Farms	Northern Region	20,000	SASL	Production Loan
Dawadawa FBOs	Kintampo	50,152	Kintampo RCB	Production loan
3 NFs	Upper West	210,072	SASL	Production loan
John Mulnye & Yahaya Iddrisu	Upper West	51,000	Wa Community Credit	Production loan (approval pending)
Sissala East Co-op Farmers and Marketing Union	Upper West	244,975	Sissala RCB	Production Loan (approval pending)
Simple Prince	Upper East	43,600	Wienco Agriculture	Input Supply Credit
186 Actors (85 members of the Biu women's group, 1 NF supporting 100 SHFs).	Upper East	108,100	Toende &SASL	Production loan
Simple Prince &Richard Akoka	Upper East	177,000	SASL & Toende RCB	Production Loan (approval Pending)
Total Approved	GHC 658,624			
Total yet to be approved	GHC 472,975			

Annex 3: List of STTAs

Consultancy	Date started	Date completed	Remarks
Review of warehouse receipts system, and development of revised rules and operating manuals	June 5, 2014	In progress. Draft report on review phase submitted by the consultants. Feedback has been provided to the consultant by GGC. Development of rules and manuals is expected to commence this week	Assignment scheduled to complete by July ending.
Assist GGC develop a strategic plan to guide its activities over the next 3- 5 years	To start on September 1, 2014	To be completed by end of October 2014	Recruitment process ongoing

Annex 4: Commodity purchase and sale deals

Buyer	Seller	Crop	Quantity (mt)	Value (GH¢)	Field Office
Edem Services	Tiyumba Women's Rice Processors	Milled Rice	50	55,500	Tamale
Sadia and Ejura rice women aggregators	Smallholder rice farmers in Botanga Irrigation catchment area	Paddy Rice	131	107,152	
Konongo and Aframso women group	Small holder rice farmers in the Salaga area	Paddy Rice	44	48,000	
World Food Programme	Gundaa	Maize	100	90,000	
Premium Food	Chief James Adawina	Rice	64	49,000	Bolga
Premium Food	Chief Moses	Maize	40	200,000	
<u>Various Buyers:</u>	ICOUR Silos / Tono Irrigation Farmers' Cooperative Union	Rice	876	864,820	
Sadia Awuni,					
Hawa Razak,					
Mallam Ibrahim,					
Lantana Nuhu,					
John Manu, Rose-Mary Atindema, Yaa Serwaa, Kwaku Ofori, Abena Mensah, Karim, Kate, and Fibu					
World Food Programme	Mashood Dari	Maize	100	90,000	Wa
Buyer in Techiman	Yahaya Iddrisu	Maize	60	43,200	
Total			1,465	1,547,672	

Annex 5: List of grants made

TYPE OF GRANT	GRANTEE	AMOUNT US\$)	REMARKS
Support for the continuous development and operation of a warehouse receipt system	Ghana Grains Council	314,448	
Multi crop planters and tractor-towed ploughs	Five outgrower businesses (Nucleus Farmers)	12,222	The use of these equipment will be monitored to determine the benefits to the outgrowers
Total Grants made to date		326,670	

Annex 6: Articles on ADVANCE II published during the reporting period

USAID scales-up investments in cereal production

By Samuel SAM, Tamale

The second USAID/Ghana's Feed The Future (FTF) Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement (ADVANCE II) project has been launched in Tamale

The four-year USAID-sponsored project focuses on the maize, rice and the soya beans, which are some of the commodities in the country with which the nation generates revenue through export for developmental projects. It was also to scale-up agricultural investment to improve the competitiveness of maize, rice and the soya bean value chains in the north.

The project has been awarded to ACDI/VOCA and is being implemented in partnership with a team of agencies including ACDEP as the lead implementer in the northern sector. The goal of ADVANCE is to facilitate a transformation of Ghana's agricultural sector in selected industries to achieve increased competitiveness in domestic, regional and international markets.

Launching the project in Tamale, Mr. William Boakye Acheampong -- Northern Regional Director of Agriculture who launched the project -- noted that agriculture is the backbone of the nation and if its citizens acquire the necessary support for their production it would help boost the economy and also reduce the unemployment rate.

He reiterated government's commitment to supporting the private sector to improve the economy through the provision of incentives and others logistics for farmers to produce high yields and enable the country to generate revenue for developmental projects. He said access to input and output markets for agricultural commodities remains a key challenge for rural farmers, who continue to face major challenges in the agric sector.

He urged farmers to form

associations in order to acquire loans for their businesses, adding that banks always have more confidence in an Association than an individual, given the fear that a person might not be able to repay the loans.

Mr. Edo Lin, chief of party, USAID, said the FTF is a United States programme aimed at increasing food security and improving nutritional status around the world.

He said the ADVANCE II project will focus on supporting farmers to adopt improved production technologies, value addition technologies, and market linkages to buyers -- with emphasis on paying special attention to women as well as ensuring that all benefit equally from the projects.

He noted that the project is expected in the next four years to reach over 100,000 maize, rice and the soya bean farmers in the Northern Region through public private collaboration. "We will also help to upgrade and rehabilitate research facilities at the Savannah Agricultural Research Institute to facilitate their work," he added. In conjunction with private sector investments, he said ADVANCE II will also make modest grants to reduce risk, introduce innovations, leverage resources to mitigate constraints, and bring efficiencies to targeted value chain actors.

Mr. Lin said the project is being implemented in 23 districts of the three northern regions, with 11 supply chains already established.

According to the chief of party, 6,788 farmers (2,474 females and 4,314 males), 7 aggregators, 12 input dealers, 8 financial service providers, 11 mechanised service providers, including NAAMSECO, have been engaged on the programme to bring growth to the sector by increased efficiencies and mutually beneficial business relationships.

Business & Financial Times
Wed. 16 - Thurs 17, April 2014 Pg 35

USAID To Scale Up Agric Investments

THE NEW phase of the United States Agency for International Development and the Feed the Future's Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement (USAID - ADVANCE II) project has been launched in Tamale.

The ADVANCE II project is aimed at scaling up agricultural investment to improve the competitiveness of the maize, rice and soybean value chains, especially in Northern Ghana.

A statement issued and signed by Adwoa Mensima Sey, Public Relations and Communications Director of USAID- ADVANCE II project in Tamale recently said the initiative was under the Feed the

Future (FtF), a President Barack Obama's flagship programme aimed at increasing food security and improving nutritional status around the world.

It said in Ghana, ADVANCE II would focus on supporting farmers to adopt improved production technologies, value addition technologies, market and linkages to buyers with emphasis on paying special attention to women in ensuring that they equally benefited from all project's activities and resources

The statement said over the next four years, the project was expected to reach over 100,000 maize, rice and soya farmers in northern Ghana through public and private sector

partners.

It said ADVANCE II was being implemented by a consortium of local and international partners led by Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA).

The statement said the consortium of the local partners included ACDEP, Pab Consult and Technoserve.

It said the project would also collaborate with other Feed the Future projects, as well as other relevant agencies in improving agricultural investment in Northern Ghana.

—GNA

USAID invests \$24million in agric project in the North

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is investing 22million dollars in various agricultural projects in the three regions of the North to improve competitiveness in maize, rice and soyabean production to achieve food security.

The programme, being executed under the Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement (ADVANCE TWO) project, covers the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions with more than 500 farmers and farmer-based organizations as beneficiaries.

The ADVANCE project supports USAID/Ghana's Feed the Future Initiative aimed at reducing poverty and hunger through inclusive agricultural growth and improved nutrition. It has the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) as one of the implementing bodies.

There were exhibitions of various farming farm implements, farm inputs and certified seeds of different varieties.

Mr John Brighenti, Agriculture Officer at the Office of Economic Growth of USAID-Ghana, assured the farmers of the USAID's commitment to helping smallholder farmers to improve their production and livelihood.

He urged farmers to join associations to enable them to access credits as well as share ideas to achieve individual and collective interests.

Dr Kwasi Ampofo, Country Director of Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), said the group would review its projects based on what was achieved last year to continue to provide farmers opportunities to improve their standards of living.

He stressed the need for micro-finance service providers to release credits to farmers who applied for loans from them noting that since 2011 that AGRA had been supporting the event, it had been beneficial to farmers, and urged farmers who had not yet prepared for the farming season, to do so immediately.

Chief Abdulai Alhassan, a farmer, expressed worry about the delay in releasing government subsidised inputs in good time, and appealed to government to endeavour to do something about it.

He was also unhappy about the difficulties farmers continued to go through to access credit facilities from financial institutions, and urged government to intervene. - GNA

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magenta black

The Ghanaian Times, Saturday, April 26, 2014
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Annex 7: Summary of Actors identified as at June 30, 2014

ADVANCE II ACTORS									
Region/Sub-Office	NFs	FBOs	Out-growers	Aggregators	Large Buyers	Input dealers	Radio stations	Financial institutions	Processors
Tamale	56	42	15,200	8	0	39	8	7	7
Bolgatanga	40	60	9,155	10	8	13	5	9	9
Wa	40	210	12,102	4	1	9	5	6	3
ADVANCE II	136	312	36,457	22	9	61	18	22	19