



# FEED THE FUTURE

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

## AGRIPOLICY 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

### PARTNERSHIP WITH MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURE POLICIES THROUGH RESEARCH



Deputy Minister of MoFA Hon. William Quaittoo, Acting USAID Mission Director Mr. Steven E. Hendrix and Chief of Party-APSP Mr. Walter Nunez-Rodriguez addressing media representatives during the press conference at the summit. Photo credit: APSP

The Agriculture Policy Support Project (APSP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) held the inaugural Agriculture Policy Research Summit in Accra on August 15, 2017.

In attendance were the USAID/Ghana Acting Mission Director Mr. Steven E. Hendrix, and two MoFA Deputy Ministers: Hon. William Agyepong Quaittoo responsible for Perennial Crops and Hon. Dr. Sagre Bambangi responsible for Annual Crops, who represented the Minister of Food and Agriculture.

In his opening remarks at the summit, Mr. Hendrix stated that “where policymaking is concerned, we believe research is a critical component to creating the most effective agricultural policies.” According to Mr. Hendrix, it is in this vein that USAID/Ghana supports MoFA with research and policy analysis, and builds the capacity of public and private organizations to closely monitor and evaluate agriculture programs.



MoFA Deputy Ministers, panel chairs, and Jenna Tajchman from USAID deliver concluding statements at the Agriculture Policy Research Summit in Accra on August 15, 2017. Photo credit: APSP

Stakeholders discussed the findings of nine policy studies jointly commissioned by APSP and MoFA in 2016, and explored how proposed recommendations could be adopted to formulate policies. By facilitating consultation between researchers and policy-makers, APSP is helping to ensure that agricultural policies in Ghana reflect informed decisions based on empirical research. The studies conducted by five local academic and research institutions (University for Development Studies, University of Cape Coast, the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Crop Research Institute, and the University of Ghana) focused on four key thematic



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AGRICULTURE POLICY SUPPORT PROJECT**

areas: i) Production, Productivity, and Food Security; ii) Agricultural Extension and Knowledge Sharing, iii) Agricultural Marketing, and; iv) Sustainable Land Management. The studies will be available on the USAID METSS e-library: [www.ghanalinks.org](http://www.ghanalinks.org), from November 2017.

Hon. Deputy Minister William Agyepong Quaitoo, was very impressed with the event and remarked that this “kind of interaction had not happened in a long while—at least 15 years,” and that it “will enable policy-makers to get comparative perspectives and empirical evidence that is vital in the agriculture policy-making process; and trigger policy reform measures and interventions that will attract increased private sector investments for the transformation of Ghana’s agriculture.”

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2016 POLICY STUDIES

- MoFA and donors should agree on common food security indicators and streamline reporting style of intervention projects to ensure quantification of pooled impacts.
- Marketing standards and weights should be enforced at the district assembly/municipality levels to improve farmers’ incomes and ensure quality agricultural commodities for consumption.
- Agriculture development projects should integrate sustainable land and water management technologies to improve soil fertility, expand yields, and curb environmental degradation.
- One study found that food security programs that last more than three years have increased impact on beneficiaries, thus programs should have longer durations.
- Government should explore public-private partnerships to improve warehouse receipting system in the maize growing districts.
- Mobile phone technology should complement face-to-face extension delivery. Also, extension messages should be accessible to farmers in local languages via voice or video messages.

## MOFA STAFF EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE TOP-NOTCH POLICY ANALYSIS TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL GROWTH IN GHANA

APSP contracted the services of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana to implement a three-week capacity building workshop for 19 staff from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture’s (MoFA) Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (PPMED) and related directorates in project and policy planning, policy cycle, monitoring and evaluation and policy analysis. APSP’s support aims to build the capacity of PPMED, which due to lack of adequate resources and low staff capacity, cannot adequately fulfill its mandate to carry out agricultural policy analysis for the development of MoFA policies, plans, programs, and budgets.

Thanks to the training, MoFA’s staff now have the capacity to fulfill the ministry’s mandate. According to Mr. Ayueboro Adama, one of the trainees: “With this hands-on training, we now know how to improve our policy analysis and be more useful to the management of the Ministry.” The project will continue supporting MoFA staff in building their skills to analyze impacts of macro-economic policies on the agricultural sector and develop policy briefs on key issues that hinder sector growth to provide timely and adequate advice to policymakers.



Boateng, presenting a certificate to a MoFA trainee at the end of the training session. Photo credit: APSP



AGRICULTURE POLICY SUPPORT PROJECT

## PROMOTING A VIBRANT SEED INDUSTRY IN GHANA

### NATIONAL SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION OF GHANA (NASTAG) LAUNCHED

On August 24, 2017 in Accra, over 100 stakeholders from the public and private sectors, development partners, and the media gathered for the official launch of NASTAG, as the major private-sector led umbrella association for all seed value chain actors in the country.

Representatives from development partners including USAID, Feed the Future projects such as APSP, the Agriculture Technology Transfer project, and AfricaRice, reaffirmed their continuous support and partnership with NASTAG to promote the growth of the seed industry and expand seed uptake among Ghanaian farmers. “If international cooperation projects such as ours get to play a role in these capacity building endeavors, I would say that the most important one is to catalyze the aspirations and desires of our local partners, in this case NASTAG members, so you can responsibly fulfill your part as agents of change, becoming the architects of your own destiny,” said Mr. Walter Nunez-Rodriguez, Chief of Party of APSP.



The MoFA Deputy Minister for Annual Crops: Hon. Dr. Sagre Bambangi officially launches NASTAG on August 24, 2017.

Photo credit: USAID

Delivering the keynote address, the Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture responsible for Annual Crops, Hon. Dr. Sagre Bambangi, reiterated the relevance of NASTAG in view of the strategic partnership the Government has started with the association in implementing of its flagship program “Planting for Food and Jobs” (PFJ). In addition, the Hon. Deputy Minister strongly indicated the government’s commitment to: i) speed up the reconstitution of a functioning National Seed Council; ii) allocate a budget for the implementation of the National Seed Plan; iii) operationalize the Plants and Fertilizer Act 803’s Seed Fund; and; iv) ensure parliamentary approval of the ECOWAS-harmonized Ghana Seed Regulations.



Seed sector stakeholders after the official launch ceremony of the Association. Photo credit: USAID

Attendees applauded the remarks by Hon. Dr. Bambangi, since these commitments are key elements to strengthen the enabling environment and promote private sector investments in the seed industry. Members inducted a seven-member Executive Council of NASTAG into office to continue building the capacity of the association and to consolidate its place as the leading private organization in the Ghanaian seed industry.

## GHANAIAN SEED PRODUCERS TRAINED ON QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Working along with NASTAG, APSP selected 21 local seed companies interested in increasing their sales and provided training on seed quality management control. If seed producers can sustain a supply of high quality seeds, farmers are more likely to invest in the purchasing of improved seeds.

The project organized two sessions of four-day training in 2016 and 2017 on seed quality management to help seed enterprises address operational inefficiencies. The companies that attended the training have introduced stronger operations, administrative, and business principles into their business plans and are developing their own manuals to ensure quality control of seed production.

“I am now equipped with knowledge to ensure effective quality control of my seeds. I am confident my seeds will achieve maximum productivity with farmers in Ghana and the West African Sub-region for that matter,” said Godwin Agbedanu of Benzene Farms Ltd in the Volta Region. These steps are important for seed companies to be more competitive, hold their certification status, and gain trust in their communities as reputable business partners. With the improvements that APSP is championing, Ghanaian seed companies can not only expand their local sales but to also break into the larger West African marketplace.



Seed producers participating in the training workshop held in Kumasi. Photo credit: APSP

---

## NASTAG SUPPLIES SEEDS UNDER THE “PLANTING FOR FOOD AND JOBS” PROGRAM (PFJ)

At a training session on strategic development planning, APSP and NASTAG conceived the idea to supply local seeds to support the Government of Ghana (GoG)’s flagship “Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ)” program.

Based on this bold initiative, NASTAG representatives held meetings with the leadership of MoFA and expressed their readiness and capacity to supply quality seeds and seize this unique opportunity to expand the market for improved seeds. Subsequently, MoFA offered NASTAG a slot to supply open-pollinated variety (OPV) maize seeds to Ghanaian farmers. At the end of May 2017, seed producers associated with NASTAG successfully supplied 1,200 MT of OPV seeds (improved seeds to increase yields per hectare) to farmers in the southern zone of Ghana.

In full recognition of NASTAG’s role in coordinating the supply of seeds to the PFJ, MoFA invited the organization to have a permanent seat at the PFJ’s National Committee. This is a strong indication that MoFA’s leadership has come to recognize that NASTAG, as the representative of seed growers in Ghana, is a major player for the successful implementation of the PFJ.



AGRICULTURE POLICY SUPPORT PROJECT

## PARTNERSHIP WITH GHANAIAAN CIVIL SOCIETY

### PARTNERING WITH NETRIGHT GHANA TO STRENGTHEN GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICY PROCESSES IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Gender-based civil society organizations (CSOs) are increasingly recognizing the need to understand policy processes and use evidence to engage more effectively with policymakers. In light of this, APSP signed a seven-month grant agreement with the Network for Women's Rights (NETRIGHT) Ghana to empower its 15 network members and other CSOs to use evidence-based data to engage in advocacy campaigns and develop position papers for policy reforms that promote women's participation in agriculture.

NETRIGHT will also strengthen its members' gender mainstreaming capacity through dissemination of and dialogue on MoFA's gender and agriculture development strategy. These activities are expected to increase women's control of key agriculture inputs such as arable agriculture land, improved quality seeds, technology, and extension services.

---

### PROMOTING PRIVATE PARTNER DIALOGUES WITH THE HUNGER ALLIANCE OF GHANA TO FOSTER INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE

Frequent dialogues between policy makers and the private sector on addressing challenges and conditions for engaging in agriculture is an integral component to increasing private sector participation in agriculture. To assist in establishing a platform for private sector engagement with government officials, APSP signed a six-month grant agreement with the Hunger Alliance of Ghana (HAG), a local CSO. HAG is a food security and nutrition network that brings Non-State Actors together to have a unified voice against hunger, malnutrition and poverty in Ghana through advocacy and knowledge sharing.

This grant activity will regularly engage with government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs); Parliamentary Caucus on Food Security and Nutrition; Parliamentary Select Committee on Food and Cocoa; private agribusiness organizations; farmer-based organizations (FBOs); and the media. Through these public-private dialogues, government officials will receive feedback from the private sector on the implementation of key programs such as "Planting for Food and Jobs" and "One-District-One Factory" and suggestions to improve the agribusiness climate.

#### Contact us

📍 # 29, 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular Road Cantonments-Accra, Ghana

✉ PMB OS 88, Osu-Accra, Ghana

☎ 0303 939389

#### Disclaimer

This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the USAID.



AGRICULTURE POLICY SUPPORT PROJECT