



USAID | **GHANA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FEED THE FUTURE AGRICULTURE POLICY SUPPORT PROJECT (APSP)

QUARTERLY REPORT (JANUARY– MARCH 2015)
FISCAL YEAR 2015, QUARTER 2



April 30, 2015

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Chemonics International Inc.



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Contract No. 641-C-14-0001

Cover Photo: Women farmers from the Volta region meet with the chiefs of party of the Feed the Future Program, in their visit to the region, January 2015.

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ACRONYMS

ACA	Advocacy Capacity Assessment
AFAP	African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership
APD	MoFA's Animal Production Directorate
APPDF	Agricultural Public Private Dialogue Forum
APS	Annual Public Statement
APSP	USAID/Agriculture Policy Support Project
ASWG	Agriculture Sector Working Group
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing System
CCC	Collaborative Circle of COPs
CEPA	Center for Policy Analysis
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Draught Control in the Sahel
COP	Chief of Party
CORAF/WE CARD	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DCS	MoFA's Directorate of Crop Services
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EOI	Expression of Interest
FASDEP	Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy
FBO	Farmer-Based Organizations
FiF	Feed the Future
FY	Fiscal Year
GADS	Gender in Agriculture Development Strategy
GASIP	Ghana Agriculture Sector Investment Plan
GSSP	Ghana Strategic Support Program
GCX	Ghana Commodity Exchange
GIMPA	Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GoG	Government of Ghana
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Institute
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
ISU	Iowa State University
JSR	Joint Sector Review
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MESTI	Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovations
METASIP	Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MoFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
MoTI	Ministry of Trade and Industries
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAFCO	National Buffer Stock Company
NSA	Non-State Actor
NSTL	National Seed Testing Laboratory
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PEF	Private Enterprise Federation
PPRSD	MoFA's Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate
Re-SAKSS	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
RFA	Request for Applications
RFP	Request for Proposals
SADA	Savannah Accelerated Development Authority
SAKSS	Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
SRID	Statistics Research and Information Directorate
TO	Task Order
TOR	Terms of Reference

USAID
VSD
WAFP
WASP
WIAD

United States Agency for International Development
MoFA's Veterinary Services Directorate
USAID/West Africa Fertilizer Program
USAID/West African Seed Program
Women in Agriculture Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The USAID/Ghana Feed the Future Agriculture Policy Support Project (APSP) is pleased to present the quarterly report for January to March 2015, which corresponds to the second quarter of fiscal year 2015 (FY15), or Year 2 (Y2) of the project. APSP improves the food security enabling environment for private sector investment by increasing the capacity of public and private stakeholders to implement evidence-based agriculture policies, as well as perform rigorous monitoring and evaluation of agricultural programs implemented under the Ghanaian Ministry of Food and Agriculture's (MoFA) Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP).

APSP activities are focused around the project's three components:

1. Policy formation and implementation, to improve Ghana's agricultural sector policy process for evidence-based decision making related to food security;
2. Policy research, to increase rigorous policy analysis capacity for evidence-based policy making; and
3. Policy advocacy, to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of private organizations and the media to participate and amplify their voice in the public policy process.

During this reporting period, the project's main accomplishments are as follows:

- Placed CEPA's embedded policy advisor with the Policy Planning and Budget Directorate of MoFA. He will greatly contribute to the acceleration of our support to MoFA to strengthen the agriculture policy process.
- Completed a Soil Fertility Management Study through a partnership with GSSP/IFPRI, WAFP, and AFAD. The study's preliminary findings were presented to government officials and other private stakeholders.
- Conducted technical workshops on strengthening policy formation and implementation attended by over 300 public and private stakeholders. The workshops covered sensitization and adjustments and drafting of agriculture-related laws.
- Implemented two meetings of the SAKSS Nodes and of the Steering Committee of METASIP, leading to the identification of research topics and development of work plans, which the project will support through its small grants fund and technical assistance, respectively.
- Conducted nine educational agriculture policy forums, engaging public and private stakeholders in fruitful dialogues. In these forums, the project improved the knowledge and skills of the 900 attendees in Northern Ghana and other regions of the country on key agriculture policy documents, such as FASDEP and METASIP.
- These forums assisted district-level authorities in identifying and agreeing on the development or improvement of agriculture-related bylaws and regulations, ranging from land access, to mitigating deforestation, to developing institutional approaches for improving the policy process.
- Issued three tenders to implement agriculture policy advocacy, conduct training activities, and build the institutional capacity of private sector organizations. These activities will support and launch several other initiatives linking private stakeholders in the analysis, discussion, and implementation of agriculture policy.

- Trained more than 50 Ghanaian journalists in agriculture reporting, communication, and budget tracking. As a result, these journalists launched their own social media platforms to advance agricultural reporting and contribute to agriculture policy advocacy.

A. PROGRESS BY COMPONENT

A1. Component 1: Policy Formation and Implementation

Component 1 will improve Ghana's agricultural sector policy process for evidence-based decision making related to food security through four main pillars:

- Improve capacity for policy analysis and evaluation by core METASIP-institutions by standing up the Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) node;
- Enhance implementation of improved policies, regulations, and administrative procedures as outlined by Government of Ghana (GoG)-endorsed policy documents and agreements between GoG, donors, and private sector;
- Improve policies that enable private sector development, commercialization and use of improved agricultural inputs to increase smallholder productivity and incomes; and
- Improve execution of the METASIP.

A1a. Progress to date per agreed-upon work plan and other contract-related activities

Improve capacity for policy analysis and evaluation by core METASIP-institutions by standing up the Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) node

Embed Policy Advisor in MOFA's Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (PPMED).

During this quarter, [REDACTED] was approved as the embedded policy advisor at MoFA. The embedded policy advisor will sit at the newly restructured Policy Planning and Budget Office.

The embedded advisor has already met with the director of PPB and with USAID's embedded advisor to the Minister to discuss the activities that he will work on, taking into account both MoFA's and the project's priorities. This will inform APSP's own planning process.

Assess Needs and Train METASIP/SAKSS Members. The Ghana Institute of Management and Public

Administration (GIMPA) submitted their initial report on the needs assessment and gap analysis of METASIP/SAKSS members. GIMPA is currently conducting the needs assessment and administering questionnaires. Based on the results of the evaluation, GIMPA will develop the training modules and start training METASIP/SAKSS members in FY2 Q2.

Develop Revitalization Plan for SAKSS. In FY2 Q2 APSP conducted two workshops with MoFA leading to action plans for revitalizing METASIP and SAKSS. APSP has since met with MoFA to agree on a roadmap for implementing the proposed actions which are expected to begin next quarter.

COMPONENT 1: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Embedded Policy Advisor has been on-boarded and started work with PPMED.
- Development of training modules to train METASIP/SAKSS members progressing.
- Action Plan to revitalize METASIP/SAKSS completed and ready for implementation.
- A feasibility assessment of Ghana Commodity Exchange commissioned.
- MoFA "Facts and Figures 2014" produced.
- Soil fertility research to explore policy options for Ghana undertaken.
- PPRSD seed laboratories active again and generating revenue.
- Harmonization of Ghana's seed regulations with ECOWAS protocol initiated.

MoFA Decentralization Workshop. MoFA is eager to define its role within the decentralized governance structure, particularly at the Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) level. In January 2015, APSP and GIZ collaborated to support MoFA by conducting a workshop to define the Ministry’s mandate within a decentralized administration. Staff of MoFA and the Secretariat of Local Government Services attended the workshop. The Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) is developing relevant training programs — based on the recommendations from the workshop — to build the capacity of local government officials across the country. APSP will eventually support the training program upon receiving a formal request from the Secretariat.

Support MoFAD Policy on Aquaculture Development. APSP worked with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) to finalize the TOR for the development of investment projects based on the Ghana National Aquaculture Development Plan (GNADP). Iowa State University (ISU) will identify and field an expert for this assignment in FY2 Q3.

Undertake a Feasibility Assessment of the Proposed Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX). The Government of Ghana (GoG) is exploring creative ways of improving agriculture marketing including the establishment of a commodity exchange. Following this policy decision, government officials have approached USAID seeking support for the implementation of this initiative. The Office of Economic Growth of USAID/Ghana instructed APSP to assess the status of the proposal for the commodity exchange and provide recommendations to USAID on how it can best support the GXE initiative.

APSP and the Center for Policy Analysis (CEPA) jointly commissioned a study, and in March 2015, a short-term technical team made up of a Ghanaian and an American expert was assembled to conduct this feasibility assessment. CEPA and APSP staff are currently reviewing the draft report and will submit the findings and recommendations to USAID next quarter.

Improve policies that enable private sector development, commercialization, and use of improved agricultural inputs to increase smallholder productivity and incomes

Support for Implementation of the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803). During FY2 Q2, APSP supported MoFA’s Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) and the Directorate of Crops Services (DCS) to organize the second Sensitization Education Campaign on the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803) in Kumasi. The event attracted more than 100 public and private sector participants from the Ashanti and Brong Ahafo regions. During the meeting, the participants approved a proposal to partner with District Assemblies (DAs) to expand the educational campaigns locally using local radio stations and to engage MoFA officials trained in the details of Act 803. APSP is partnering with the USAID/West Africa Fertilizer Program (WAFP) to implement this proposal.



██████████, Research Team Lead
Soil Fertility Conference, Feb 2015

Support Accreditation of National Seed Testing Laboratory (NSTL). In the first quarter, APSP funded the 2014 annual subscriptions of the NSTL to renew its

membership to the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). This has improved revenue generation this quarter. By remaining an active member of ISTA, the NSTL, under the supervision of the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate of MoFA, can continue to test and issue phytosanitary certificates for both local and imported seeds. The NSTL has begun to generate income at the Pokusase facility and its other five satellite units. As the operations of the NSTL expand to include coverage of the ECOWAS sub-region, the laboratory will generate sustainable resource streams to cover its operations and subscription payments moving forward.

Study on Soil Fertility Management. During FY2 Q2, APSP collaborated with the GSSP/IFPRI, WAFP and AFAP to commission a comprehensive analysis of sustainable soil fertility management in Ghana. The overall objective of the study was to assess soil fertility in Ghana and develop a report to present policy and technical recommendations which incorporated feedback from public and private stakeholders.

Five experts from the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Africa conducted this assessment in January and February 2015. They presented their initial findings and recommendations to selected stakeholders at a workshop chaired by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture (Crops). The initial findings of the study were that soil fertility in Ghana poses a challenge to agriculture growth and that blanket application of subsidized fertilizers may not address this issue, so other policy options must be explored. APSP and its partners will receive the draft report next quarter.

Improve execution of the METASIP

Agriculture Policy Matrix. APSP, in partnership with MoFA, began developing an agriculture sector policy matrix to provide guidance for sector stakeholders, including development partners, on MoFA's medium term policy direction. In February 2015, an initial meeting was held with MoFA officials to agree on the form and structure of the matrix. APSP has since developed a draft policy matrix and circulated it among interested parties for review and comment. The APSP will support the finalization of the Policy Matrix during the third quarter.

Creation of a Policy Unit within MoFA. By the end of the project, APSP will establish a policy unit within MoFA staffed with a highly trained, motivated, and efficient cadre of professionals who will backstop the Ministry in its policy research and policy analysis initiatives. In FY2 Q2, an expert from Iowa State University developed an initial conceptual and technical framework for the unit. The expert presented his initial findings and recommendations at a meeting chaired by the Chief Director at MoFA. MoFA's initial response has been positive. The APSP will finalize the design of the Policy Unit in FY2 Q3, after which APSP will engage the Ministry to operationalize the proposal.

Improve Agriculture Sector Data Collection and Analysis. Following APSP's support to SRID to validate the 2013 agriculture statistics, the project will produce 2,000 copies of the Directorate's annual publication, "*Facts and Figures 2014*," which will be distributed in April.

APSP also worked with SRID to continue to explore interventions to improve data collection, analysis, and management to improve the quality and credibility of agriculture sector statistics. In January 2015, APSP issued a RFP for the development of a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) System for SRID's Crop, Livestock, and Market Price Surveys. The Technical Evaluation Committee, which included representatives of SRID, awarded the contract

to Farmerline, a Ghanaian IT company. Farmerline will begin development of the system in May 2015.

Collaboration with Other Partners. During this review period, APSP continued collaboration with various development partners to improve agriculture sector policy development and implementation. APSP collaborated with the following group and institutions:

- Re-SAKSS, to activate a Secretariat for METASIP/SAKSS. APSP will furnish the Secretariat, while Re-SAKSS will cover salaries of staff members.
- USAID’s Modern Extension and Advisory Services (MEAS) project implemented by University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, to conduct an extension and advisory services policy review in Ghana. During FY2 Q2, the APSP technical team worked with officials from MEAS to conduct key informant surveys to gather information for the policy review.
- GIZ, to conduct a validation workshop for the finalization of a Seeds Plan being developed by the DCS of MoFA as part of an implementation effort for the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010. APSP agreed to provide additional input for the plan in collaboration with ISU’s Seed Science Center.
- Multiple efforts with the Collaborative Circle of COPs (CCC) of the USAID/Ghana Feed the Future (FtF) projects.
 - The CCC developed a Matrix on Project Collaboration. This matrix clearly indicates where and how the FtF projects are working together and what are the expected areas for potential and continue mutual engagement.
 - The CCC initiated a feasibility study to assess the implementation of joint interventions in two districts in the northern area of the Volta Region within the Zone of Influence of the Feed the Future program. The goal is for all the FtF flagship projects to work together in those districts under a single work plan and single policy guidance provided by the CCC.
 - The CCC met with representatives of the Agriculture and Agribusiness Unit of the Ministry of Finance to discuss the implementation of a nation-wide Agriculture Post Harvest Infrastructure Survey.
 - At USAID’s Implementing Partner meeting on March 2015, APSP’s chief of party proposed the development of a collaborative annual “Agriculture Policy Reform Agenda” with specific targets, activities, and roles for projects. The idea was well received by USAID officials and it is expected to be part of the resulting recommendations.

A1b. Identification of specific problems and recommendations for corrective action and reasons why established targets not met

Project implementation improved significantly during the second quarter, but the project still faces challenges with joint and collaborative initiatives with MoFA. Some activities face delays in implementation as public servants expect sitting allowances to complete assignments. For example, the 15 member committee established to finalize Ghana’s harmonized seed regulations has not yet met since the Directorate of Crops Services does not have the funds to pay sitting allowances. Due to this, the harmonization process is significantly delayed. APSP will continue to

seek opportunities for collaboration with other partners to share costs that are permissible under our respective projects. APSP's support to MoFA to implement recommendations from the 2014 Joint Sector Review is delayed because MoFA has yet to finalize decisions on the areas that need technical support. However, collaboration between the embedded advisors to MoFA will accelerate implementation of this policy analysis process.

Capacity building activities for members of the Three Councils established to oversee the implementation of the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803) have not begun. Despite a number of meetings with the Hon. Minister over the last quarter to seek his support to call meetings of the Councils, these meetings have yet to be scheduled. Toward the end of FYI Q2, APSP took corrective action by meeting with the newly appointed USAID embedded technical advisor to the Hon. Minister to discuss progress in overall project implementation and he agreed to work with APSP.

In FY1 Q4 and in FY2 Q2, APSP supported MoFA with two sensitizations workshops on Act 803. Over 200 public and private stakeholders attended these events. However, in order to widen the scope of coverage on the dissemination of the Act's content and to make the sensitization more cost-effective, APSP and MoFA decided to adopt the training of trainers (TOT) concept. Under this approach, selected MoFA staff will receive training on the law, and in turn, they will provide further training to district and community stakeholders in several districts of Ghana.

A1c. Outcomes of high level meetings

Access to agricultural land has been increasingly raised and discussed at forums. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) recently inaugurated a national committee to develop legislation to improve access to agricultural land. During FY2 Q2, APSP met with the Chief Director of the Ministry to discuss potential collaboration, and the project will continue to follow up on these initial discussions in Q3.

In FY2 Q2, APSP continued to discuss opportunities to provide support for the implementation of the Bio-Safety Act (Act 831). The recently appointed Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovations (MESTI) has expressed interest in support from the project. In prior discussions, APSP had been asked to furnish and support the Secretariat of the Bio-Safety Board, train board members, and strengthen public relations to counteract the negative perception around genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The Bio-Safety Board was inaugurated in Q2 and we expect to receive the Ministry's formal request in Q3.

APSP continues to follow up with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Crops) to arrange a meeting with the leadership of Parliament to discuss how the project can support a consultative process on the Plant Breeders' Bill. Confusion about GMOs and the objectives of the Plant Breeders' Bill has stalled the organization of these meetings.

A1d. Assessment of the validity and efficacy of progress against the objectives and results

By proactively identifying new activities and anticipating the implementation of other initiatives, APSP has been able to progress considerably in FY2 Q2. For instance, the soil fertility management research program, organized with other partners, was not in the initial FY2 work

plan, but was nevertheless a success. The collaboration with ISU to establish a Policy Unit within MoFA was initially planned for later this summer but began in FY2 Q2. The Extension Services policy review was also unplanned, but directly supports the goals of Component 1.

With the objective to further explain project goals and improve implementation, APSP met with the new Chief Director of MoFA and the new Directors of Policy Planning and Budget (PPB) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). At the meetings, APSP received the commitment of these key MoFA officials to fully implement the MOU signed with MoFA in December 2014.

A2. Component 2: Policy Research

Component 2 facilitates increased availability of rigorous policy analysis capacity for evidence-based policymaking. The APSP small grants will provide opportunities for enhancing local research capacities and will fund research initiatives conforming to METASIP priorities.

Research studies will address bottlenecks in the implementation of METASIP and generate data to fill in information gaps for sound evidence-based decision making. In line with the METASIP framework, APSP will support research topics that have been cleared by the METASIP Steering Committee, SAKSS node, and MoFA.

A2a. Progress to date per agreed-upon work plan and other contract-related activities

Grants for Research Activities. An expression of Interest (EOI) as sent out in FY1 Q4 to identify institutions and universities to collaborate with the project on implementing agriculture policy research. Four universities and one research institution have responded.

APSP will present the process for the small grants for research mechanism to representatives of the University of Ghana (Accra), University of Cape Coast, University of Development Studies (Tamale), Methodist University (Brong Ahafo Region), Presbyterian University (Eastern Region), and the Savannah Agriculture Research Institute (Northern Region).

APSP will issue a RFP in FY2 Q3 to solicit grant applications from research institutions and universities to implement research studies and thesis dissertations. The grants will also build the institutional capacity of key public and private institutions and organizations to effectively engage in the implementation and evaluation of METASIP programs.

Research Priorities with MoFA (METASIP/SAKSS). In FY2 Q2, APSP supported two meetings of the METASIP Steering Committee and the SAKSS Nodes thematic groups. MoFA and APSP have identified and validated ten potential research topics as per the five FASDEP/METASIP thematic areas.

FASDEP/METASIP Thematic Areas	Potential Research Topics
Food security and emergency preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a study on the drivers for private sector investment in agricultural mechanization - Conduct a study on the drivers for adoption of technology by smallholder farmers
Increased growth in incomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct feasibility study for establishing agro industrial processing facilities in two rural areas - Research on peri-urban agriculture related to land use planning
Marketing of agricultural products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a review of existing commercial laws, practices, and codes related to agriculture for enhancing compliance

	- Conduct a study of the necessary drivers for promoting private sector investments in three commodities (maize, rice and cassava)
Sustainable management of land and environment	- Compilation and dissemination of sustainable land and water practices - Implement TOT for extension agents and FBOS in sustainable land management technologies
Science and technology applied in food and agriculture	- Research on approaches to strengthen extensions services and its linkage to technology adoption - Identification and compilation of appropriate technologies and dissemination on adoption

Based on these topics, in Q3 APSP will work with MoFA on developing the specific TORs for inclusion in the tenders. APSP will ensure that the hypotheses for research are concrete and specific, in order to determine the scope and nature of the task to be performed.

A2b. Identification of specific problems and recommendations for corrective action and reasons why established targets not met

Only five research institutions responded to the expression of interest (EOI) from the eleven invitations sent out in FY2 Q1. To avoid further delays in implementation, APSP has taken steps to meet directly with faculty and graduate students of academic and research institutions to discuss opportunities for collaboration in FY2 Q3.

Two major challenges have affected the identification of research priorities. The first was the inability of the METASIP Steering Committee/SAKSS Nodes to meet, and the second was the lack of an operational secretariat to direct and coordinate their activities. To address the first challenge, APSP supported MoFA to conduct meetings of the METASIP Steering Committee and of the SAKSS Nodes to develop work plans and to identify and validate research priorities.

To address the second challenge, APSP and the Re-SAKSS have agreed to work together to establish a permanent METASIP/SAKSS Secretariat. RE-SAKSS will fund two full-time technical assistants and APSP will furnish the offices of the Secretariat in FY2 Q3.

A2c. Assessment of progress against work plan activities

Implementation of the APSP grants mechanism progressed during FY2 Q2. This provided inputs for engaging MoFA and other stakeholders in discussions on APSP support for agriculture policy research. In response to the APS issued by the project in December 2014, in Q2 the project received six concept notes for conducting research and two of them were approved. Of these two, one proposal has been put on hold until the tender for research is issued and the other is in the process of finalizing its grant application for award in Q3.

The following are the approved concept notes:

Proponent	Title of the Proposed Research	Status of the Application
Northcode (NGO)	Tracking Support for Women under the Agriculture Input Support Program of the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) for increased Food and Nutrition Security in Northern Ghana	Concept note approved, finalizing grant application
Ghana Federation of Agriculture Producers	Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Opportunities and Challenges in the Development of the Agriculture Sector in Ghana – Conducting trend analysis of IEPA in the development of the agriculture sector in Ghana, and conducting socio-economic research on the importance of the current EPA agreements in Ghana.	On hold. The organization will submit a new application based on the RFA for capacity building initiatives

ASPS will continue to consult with research institutions, universities, NSAs, and the GoG to advance research for evidence-based policy formation and implementation.

A3. Component 3: Policy Advocacy

Component 3 is focused on building the capacity of civil society and farmer-based organizations (FBOs) to develop and implement policy advocacy activities, amplifying their voice in the agriculture policy process to:

- Improve engagement of the private sector in food security policy reforms and implementation;
- Improve the capacity of the private sector to advocate for pro-business agriculture sector reforms; and
- Provide civil society support for the policy efforts of other Ghana Feed the Future projects.

A3a. Progress to date per agreed-upon deliverables

Improve engagement of the private sector in food security policy reforms and implementation

Organization of Education and Sensitization Forums on Ghana's Agriculture Policy. In FY2 Q2, APSP organized forums for district-level public and private stakeholders in nine districts across four regions to build their capacity to engage in Ghana's agriculture policy making process. The 922 participants, 714 men and 208 women, came from FBOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), district assemblies, and the media and were trained in agriculture policy and techniques to engage public officials. According to the data from the pre-training assessments, nearly 98 percent of participants lacked knowledge on basic policy documents of MoFA such as FASDEP and METASIP.

COMPONENT 3: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Nine district-level agriculture public-private dialogue forums held for a total of 911 participants (208 females and 708 males) in the Eastern, Volta, Northern, and Upper-East Regions.
- 53 Journalists from different media houses were trained at two separate media training workshops on agriculture reporting and communication at the national level in Accra and the SADA Zone at Tamale.
- Request for proposals for NSAs' capacity building advertised in national dailies.

During the forums, participants expressed their commitment to the development of district-level sector policies and their desire to participate in the agriculture policy process. During the discussions, a number of district-level agriculture policies, by laws, and regulations were proposed:



Public and private stakeholders at the Agriculture Policy Education and Sensitization Forums in the Northern and Upper-East Regions.

- Participants from Yilo Krobo and North Dayi Districts resolved to form agriculture sub-committees at their respective District Assemblies.
- The Districts Departments of Agriculture agreed to facilitate the development of agriculture development and investment plans. The USAID/ADVANCE II project has signed MOUs with four district assemblies in the Upper Eastern Region to support the development of their plans.
- The Assemblies will develop by-laws to regulate the uncontrolled grazing of cattle and to regulate perennial burning of bushes, which causes destruction of farm lands and other personal property.
- The Savelugu Municipal Assembly will develop a land use policy, with the support of traditional authorities, to guide uncontrolled acquisition of farm lands for real estate development.
- The Municipal Assembly will liaise with the traditional authorities to release fertile lands to women for agricultural purposes, as the current practice of releasing marginal lands to women is discriminatory.
- The Assemblies will spearhead mass mobilization of communities for tree planting to mitigate the effect of climate change in the four Upper East districts.
- Assemblies, specifically in the Bawku West district, will develop by-laws in collaboration with traditional and other authorities to minimize deforestation and degradation of farmlands by illegal miners.
- The District Departments of Agriculture will organize public-private dialogue forums to enable the district authorities to interact with farmers and other stakeholders in agriculture on a regular basis.



A training for journalists in agricultural reporting, March 2015.

APSP will continue to monitor these developments and collaborate with ADVANCE II to ensure the full implementation of these resolutions.

Media Training on Agriculture Reporting and Communication for Journalists at the National Level and in the SADA Zone. APSP conducted two media training events on agriculture reporting and communication for 53 Ghanaian journalists (38 men and 15 women) from radio, newspapers, television, and online communication outlets at the national-level in Accra and in the SADA zone in Tamale. The journalists received training on improved agriculture reporting through active advocacy and how to increase media coverage of the agriculture policy process. During the

trainings, participants identified 56 agriculture topics to write on and publish. Moreover, they constructed a social media platform dubbed “*Agriculture Journalists of Ghana*” to link trainees at the national-level, and a second platform is under construction to link trainees from the SADA Zone. Finally, participants requested further training in effective communication on agriculture policies, in-depth analysis of agriculture policies, and on agriculture budgeting and public expenditure tracking.

Improve the capacity of the private sector to advocate for pro-business agriculture sector reforms

Grant Applications for NSAs to Support Agriculture Policy Advocacy Programs. Based on the Annual Public Statement issued in December 2014, in FY2 Q2 the project launched in Q2 its grants program to support policy advocacy initiatives of Ghanaian Non-State Actors. Additional detail is provided in Section D.1 “Grants.”

Training of NSAs for improved capacity in Quality Policy Analysis and Advocacy. The organizational capacity assessment (OCA) of 45 NSAs conducted in FY2 Q1 found a lack of capacity in agriculture policy analysis, advocacy, and reporting. To address this weakness, in Q2, the project issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for NSA capacity building initiatives. The solicitation process will close on April 10, 2015.

Provide civil society support for the policy efforts of other Ghana FTF projects

Collaboration with Other Partners. APSP and ADVANCE II have jointly implemented six agriculture policy sensitization forums in six districts in the Northern and Upper East regions including Tolon, Savelugu (NR), Builsa North, Builsa South, Bawku West districts, and Kasena Nankana Municipal (UER). Additionally, the Private Enterprise Federation submitted a draft grant application for the revitalization of the Agriculture Public-Private Dialogue Forum (APPDF) responding to the project’s unsolicited RFA issued in September 2014. APSP is also collaborating with Africa Lead, GIZ-MOAP, and Grow Africa to support the revitalization of the Agriculture Public Private Dialogue Forum (APPDF).

A3b. Identification of specific problems and recommendations for corrective action and reasons why established targets were not met

One of APSP’s objectives is to revive the APPDF. Unfortunately, the Private Enterprise Federation (PEF) which is leading the establishment of this forum, has been unable to submit a feasible institutional, technical, and financial proposal for funding which has delayed the implementation of this activity. In FY2 Q1, APSP worked with Africa Lead to provide technical assistance to PEF to develop its grant application. It is expected that PEF will submit a revised proposal next quarter.

A3c. Assessment of validity and efficacy of progress against the objectives and results.

Project implementation has progressed steadily. APSP has designed capacity-building interventions to train NSAs based on results of OCA assessments. Agriculture policy education and sensitization forums at the district level are also helping to promote platforms for public-private dialogue on agriculture policies at the local level and highlight the importance of

agriculture in district development. The districts have requested assistance in developing agriculture investment plans and creating agriculture subcommittees in district assemblies.

B. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER BY COMPONENT

Activity	Component 1 Policy Formation and Implementation	Component 2 Policy Research	Component 3 Policy Advocacy
High-Level Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meetings of the policy sub-group of the Agriculture Sector Working Group. Attend and support the Joint Sector Review meeting, as mandated by USAID. Request and attend meetings with MoFA management on project implementation issues. Meet with other MDAs to follow up on previously identified technical assistance requests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with management of CSIR, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness of the University of Ghana, and with the College of Agriculture of the University of Cape Coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with GIZ-MOAP, PEF, and Grow-Africa on the revitalization of the APPDF. General meeting with members of the APPDF, including PEF.
Technical Assistance, Trainings, and Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement, along with University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign/MEAS, an Extension and Advisory Services policy review and organize workshop with stakeholders to discuss the findings. Complete design of training modules and start training members of METASIP/SAKSS. Begin implementation of aspects of METASIP and SAKSS work plans. Finalize two bills on animal health and livestock improvement for submission to Attorney General's Department. Conclude study on feasibility of Commodity Exchange. Organize one sensitization program on Act 803 in Tamale. Finalize harmonization of seed regulations and submit to Parliament. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the assessment of the policy research capacity of selected research organizations and determine how to build capacity to meet international standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize agriculture policy forums per the EOIs received by the project. Support grantees on implementation activities. Monitor and follow up on the activities of grantees implementing policy advocacy activities, NSAs training, and building capacity as per the awarded grants. Engage with other development partners and FtF projects to collaborate on policy advocacy and capacity building initiatives.

Grants, Subcontracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist subcontractor to design the SRID’s Computer Assisted Personal Interview system (CAPI). • Finalize revision of GIMPA’s baseline survey on Gender disaggregated data and start dissemination of its results along with MoFA’s WIAD. • Operationalize work of CEPA’s Embedded Advisor at MoFA’s PPBD. • Undertake design and discussion of investment plans for MoFAD’s National Aquaculture Development Plan with ISU. • Continue working with ISU to design and implement MoFA’s Policy Unit. • Analyze feasibility of promoting agriculture insurance in Ghana, based on SOW for ISU implementation. • Continue to support the improvement of Ghana’s Seeds Act, policies, and regulations based on ISU’s SOW. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to review concept papers and issue grants to selected NSAs, CSOs, and FBOs for capacity building, policy advocacy, and policy research activities. • Monitor ongoing grant activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review applications from the RFA for larger capacity building grants to “Enhance Institutional Capacity for Agricultural Policy” which closes on April 21st, 2015. Begin awarding grants in mid to late May.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue RFA to receive applications from research institutions and universities for METASIP/SAKSS priority research topics and thesis dissertations. • Process and sign contracts with successful NSA applicants in response to the project’s APS and RFAs to receive grants. 	
			<p>Evaluate the proposals received from the RFP issued on March 11, 2015 for the development of training modules. Train representatives of approximately 45 selected NSAs. Award one or more contracts to begin the development of training modules and conduct trainings for NSAs in FY2 Q3.</p>
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with GSSP/International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and MoFA to implement recommendations of the soil fertility research. • Sign a cooperative agreement with the West Africa Fertilizer Program (WAFP) to support the implementation of Act 803, particular to train MoFA staff to educate the public on Act 803. • Collaborate with GIZ to finalize the seed plan for MoFA. 		<p>In collaboration with ADVANCE II Project, organize three agriculture policy education and sensitization forums in the Upper West Region, in Sawla, Jirapa, and Wa West.</p>

C. PROGRESS ON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

C1. Gender

APSP has made it a priority to incorporate gender concerns from the beginning of the project with the development and submission of the project's gender strategy in FY 2014. Correspondingly, these concerns are woven throughout all components. Initially the project has initiated the implementation of its gender strategy working with a needs assessment of WIAD and based on the evaluation, design training modules for the Directorate's staff.

During FY2 Q2, APSP recruited and on-boarded a gender specialist to fill the vacant position. The specialist has planned a number of activities aimed at mainstreaming gender considerations in project activities, including:

- Training APSP staff in gender mainstreaming.
- Developing gender indicators for the project.
- Updating the APSP gender strategy.
- Providing technical support to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in:
 - Planned activities for WIAD Directorate of MoFA;
 - Ghana Agriculture Extension Advisory Services Policy Review;
 - Drafting the Animal Health and Livestock Development bills;
 - Grants allocation for policy advocacy and research activities;
 - APSP communication activities; and
 - APSP performance monitoring plan.

APSP will continue to ensure that gender concerns are addressed in all discussions with stakeholders and meetings with MoFA, CSOs, and other public officials, and will communicate the importance of gender in project interventions. All RFAs and RFPs issued by the project have included a gender and nutrition requirement for evaluating applications.

C2. Environmental Compliance

As a policy and research-focused project, most APSP activities, including trainings, advocacy initiatives, and research are not expected to have an environmental impact. APSP activities in FY2 Q2 consisted of trainings, consultative workshops and meetings, research, grantee pre-award assessments, and strategic planning sessions with stakeholders. As per USAID regulations, these activities are categorically excluded from the project's Initial Environmental Examination (IEE).

As Q2 activities have not had a positive or negative environmental impact, planned activities will follow same course. These activities include working closely with MoFA and private sector stakeholders to implement sector investment policy and plans, policy advocacy grants, and NSA training programs. In its support to policy implementation, APSP will work with MoFA to ensure consideration of environmental impact and that project activities complement these national policies. APSP will continue to assess incoming grant applications and proposed projects to ensure compliance with the IEE.

Annex A: APSP Indicator Data Table

	INDICATOR	LOA TARGET	FY15		Analysis of processes/results against Targets
			TARGET	FY15 Q2 ACTUAL	
1	Score of combined key areas of organizational capacity among direct and indirect local implementing partners	TBD		-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In FY2 Q3, APSP will present a timetable for implementing the baseline studies. - Baseline for NSAs (local implementing partners) has been preliminary developed using the OCA tool. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Embedded advisor in place at MoFA. ✓ Capacity Needs Assessment for MoFA completed and training modules are being developed. ✓ APSP, with the Re-SAKSS Coordinator/Policy Analyst, conducted a meeting with SAKSS Secretariat and the METASIP Steering Committee. Work plan has been completed.
2	Number of individuals who have received U.S. government-supported short-term agriculture sector productivity or food security training	650	325	344	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicator under progress and APSP is on track. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ FY2014=105; FY2015 Q1=186; FY2015 Q2=53. ✓ 53 participants (38 men and 15 women) at two media training workshops in two districts on agriculture policy and reporting. ✓ APSP has undertaken other project related activities listed below in which up to 1,300 individuals have participated (see Annex B).
3	Percent change of key decision-makers reporting that activity-supported data to inform their decisions related to food security and agriculture policy issues contain gender sensitive data.	60		-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APSP gender specialist has developed a questionnaire, to raise quantitative and qualitative measurements, for staff of key directorates of MoFA, MoTI, MoFAD, MoF, and Women's Ministry to measure this indicator. - APSP will submit to the COR a technical memorandum on the feasibility of reviewing this specific indicator and others, as needed.

Component 1: POLICY FORMATION & IMPLEMENTATION					
4	Number of agricultural enabling environment policies/ regulations /administrative procedures:				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicator under progress and APSP is on track. - Specific project activities are progressing steadily in achieving results in this indicator, as shown below disaggregated by stages in the policy process:
	Stage 1: Analyzed	40		5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Seed regulation analyzed by public and private stakeholders for re-drafting. ISU has finished the first report on the areas for adjustment of National Seed Policy and that of the Seed Regulation. ✓ National Quarantine Pest List analyzed by public and private stakeholders. ✓ Animal Health Bill analyzed by public and private stakeholders for drafting. ✓ Livestock Production Bill analyzed by public and private stakeholders for drafting. ✓ Fertilizer subsidy analyzed as part of Soil Fertility study to be presented to GoG.
	Stage 2: Drafted for public consultation	35		3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Seed Regulation under drafting for legislature. ✓ Animal Health Bill being drafted. ✓ Livestock Production Bill being drafted.
	Stage 3: Presented for legislation	20		0	None
	Stage 4: Passed/approved	10		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Harmonized National Quarantine Pest List approved for implementation as an administrative procedure from MoFA.
	Stage 5: Passed for which implementation has begun	5		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Technical dissemination of Act 803 for compliance is taking place through the sensitization workshops held by APSP. ✓ Paid for the annual fees to renew membership of International seed testing group of the Ghana National Seed Testing Laboratory.

					<p>The following activities being conducted by APSP will generate other interventions which will contribute to the expected results of this indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Feasibility study on Ghana Commodity Exchange policy commissioned. ✓ Action initiated (draft TOR) to review NAFCO policy. ✓ Assist in Stakeholders forum on the Plant Breeders' Bill which is before Parliament. ✓ Soil Fertility Study.
5	Number of government units or divisions that have received short-term training.	10	5	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicator under progress and APSP is on track. - MoFA Directorates - PPMED, WIAD, SRID, PPRSD, DCS,=5 + VSD, APD, MOFAD=3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PPMED – Technical Assistance to METASIP / SAKSS Nodes. ✓ PPMED – Reviewing the Policy Matrix of MoFA. ✓ PPMED – Training on mapping Donor Support to MoFA. ✓ WIAD – Baseline study for Gender and Agriculture Development in Ghana. ✓ SRID – Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) system. ✓ PPRSD & DCS – TA for Seed & Fertilizer Act 803 sensitization.
6	Number of agriculture policy communications, developed and/or written for stakeholder consumption	200	50	3	<p>APSP's progress toward achieving this target has been delayed, but will accelerate as grants activities begin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sponsored advertisement in two dailies in 2014 on Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (AFFNS) to educate public on GoG commitment to the New Alliance. - Publication of "Agriculture in Ghana - Facts & Figures" document. - Television discussion on Soil Fertility in Ghana.
7	Number of policy advocacy campaigns that focus on the separate needs of men and women small holder farmers	20	5	0	<p>APSP's progress toward achieving this target has been delayed, but will accelerate as grants activities begin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Five grant applications of NSAs for policy advocacy approved in FY2 Q2. - Awards will take place in Q3. Activities are designed to achieve this indicator target.

Component 2: POLICY RESEARCH					
8	Number of high quality research reports published	6	2	0	<p>Delays in identifying research priorities due to METASIP/SAKSS being dormant have affected APSP's progress with this indicator. However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - METASIP/SAKSS met with project support and 10 topics are identified for potential researchable interventions with APSP support - Project has held meetings with CSIR, and University of Ghana - College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences to seek mutual collaboration and identify research topics - More meetings to be held with other research institutions / Universities on research - Soil fertility Study completed and report awaited - RFP to fund research will be issued in Q3
9	Score of improved areas of policy research capacity in assisted research organizations and units	TBD		-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APSP held meetings with selected research institutions in preparation for engagement for this assessment. - In FY2 Q3, APSP will present a timetable for implementing the baseline studies
Component 3: POLICY ADVOCACY					
10	Score of the capacity of the private sector to advocate for pro-business agriculture sector reform in Ghana				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed baseline information to measure progress through the Organizational Capacity Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ OCA results for 43 NSA validated. ✓ ACA report on 45 NSAs compiled and being analyzed to determine baseline and targets. - In FY2 Q3, APSP will present a timetable for implementing the baseline studies.
11	Number of public-private advocacy dialogues focused on policy that supports private sector investment	90	40	11	<p>Indicator under progress and APSP is on track.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nine district agriculture policy education and sensitization dialogues held with a total of 922 participants (714 men and 208 women.) - Three dialogues are planned for FY2 Q3.

12	Percent of recommendations agreed upon during public-private dialogues that are implemented	30	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From the agriculture policy dialogues, which involve public and private stakeholders, and the media trainings, participants agreed upon on a number of recommendations. - District Assemblies and private stakeholders agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Districts to develop Agriculture Investment Plans. ✓ Districts to create a sub-committee on agriculture as a standing committee of the Assembly. ✓ Districts to institutionalize District Agriculture Forums. ✓ Districts to establish by-laws on bush burning, degradation of the environment, and land use. ✓ Journalists agreed to setup a social media group: www.facebook.com/Agric Journalist Ghana.
13	Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and agribusiness associations (such as farmer based organizations), and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance	45	20	0	<p>APSP's progress toward achieving this target has been delayed, but will accelerate as grants activities begin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received proposals from consultants in response to RFP for capacity building training of NSAs following OCA and ACA assessments - Draft proposal received for grant support for the development of the association members of APPDF and policy dialogues. - Processes has been made towards awarding grants and grantee supported activities will contribute to results of this indicator.

Annex B: Number of Participants in APSP Activities in FY2 Q2

COMPONENT/ACTIVITY	RESULTS	Number of participants	TOTAL
<i>Develop Revitalization Plan for METASIP Steering Committee</i>	METASIP Steering Committee strengthened	25 participants; 8F, 17M	25
<i>Strengthening SAKSS Nodes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAKSS Nodes strengthened • Develop revitalization plan for SAKSS Nodes 	59 participants; 15F, 44M	59
<i>Developing Legislation - Analyze, re-draft two Bills for Parliament</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing legislation - <i>Draft Agriculture Policies/Laws</i>: analyze, re-draft and finalize two bills, Animal Health and Livestock Production, for Parliament 	28 participants; 2F, 26M	28
<i>Sensitization of Ag input regulations for implementation</i>	Implement the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803): Even in Kumasi	100 participants from public-private sector	100
<i>National Soil Fertility Study</i>	Workshop with stakeholders to share preliminary findings of research into <i>Soil Fertility Study</i>	44 participants	44
<i>Operationalize Input Regulations and Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Legislation, re-draft and harmonize agricultural input regulations • Two events: Seed Regulations and National Quarantine Pest List 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 Seed Regulations participants; 2F 31M • 19 NQPL participants; 5F, 14M 	52
<i>Training the Media for Advocacy</i>	Media training workshops on agriculture reporting and communication	53 participants	53
<i>Public-private dialogue forums on agriculture policy (Collaborating with ADVANCE II project)</i>	Nine district-level agriculture public-private dialogue forums with participants representing FBOs, CSOs, district staff and media	922 participants; 714M, 208F	922
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS IN APSP ACTIVITIES			1,337



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GHANA

SNAPSHOT

Ghana Aligns with ECOWAS Nations to Promote Free Trade in High Quality Seeds

Harmonization of Ghana’s Seed Regulations to ECOWAS Protocols Promotes Quality Control and Enhances Production



Seeds Harmonization Technical Working Group convenes in Accra in January 2015
Photo: USAID/APSP

“APSP’s intervention has assisted Ghana to meet its international obligations and paved the way for Parliamentary approval of Ghana’s Seed Regulations. This is critical in ensuring the smooth implementation of the Seed Act and the long-term development objective of growing Ghana’s agriculture sector.”

██████████, Deputy
Minister, Crops
and
██████████
Director, DCS

Ghana’s seed delivery system falls short in supplying improved and affordable seeds to most smallholder farmers. To address this challenge, the Government of Ghana passed the Plants and Fertilizer Act in 2010 (Act 803) to replace an outdated 1972 Decree. The seed section of the Act is designed to regulate and monitor the exportation, importation, and other commercial transactions related to seeds, and to ensure compliance with international regulations and conventions. Once implemented, it will liberalize seed production and promote free trade to ensure sustainable seed systems.

Seeds are the central component for plant propagation and therefore the genesis of agriculture development. Access to superior seeds will increase Farmers’ crop yields, and enhance overall production, leading to increased incomes, nutritional status, and quality of life for rural populations.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) prepared new regulations to implement the main provisions of the Act. In turn, the regulations were submitted for Parliamentary approval in 2014. However, as the proposed regulations were not in harmony with the 2008 Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS) protocols pertaining to the quality control, certification, and marketing of seeds and agricultural plants in Member States, they were rejected by the Ghanaian Parliament.

In order to correct this issue, the USAID/Ghana Feed the Future Agriculture Policy Support Project stepped in to provide MoFA with technical support to harmonize the seed regulation for re-submission to Parliament. In January 2015, the project, in cooperation with the West Africa Seeds Program and CORAF/WECARD, sponsored three experts from the ECOWAS Commission to lead a technical working group to harmonize Ghana’s seed regulation. The working group established the framework for the harmonization process, and the redrafting of the final regulations will be completed in May 2015.

With the harmonization workshop and Parliamentary enactment of the Seed Regulation, Ghana will be in compliance with its regional commitments and will have made important progress in its long-term objective of enhancing the institutional, technical, and economic feasibility of the seed industry.



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GHANA

SNAPSHOT

USAID Builds Capacity of Journalists in Agriculture Reporting

Enhancing Media Coverage of Agriculture Issues to Amplify the Voice of the Private Sector in the Public Policy Process



Journalists contributing to discussions during the media training

Photo: USAID/APSP

Two USAID APSP's media trainings have been successfully completed to date. To facilitate networking and increase coverage of and advocacy for agriculture development in Ghana, journalists who participated in the trainings, have set up a Facebook page to publish agriculture issues and have identified specific agriculture-related topics for discussion and publication in the media.

To increase coverage of and advocacy for agriculture development in Ghana, the USAID/Ghana Feed the Future Agriculture Policy Support Project (APSP) recently launched a series of trainings for journalists. Two such trainings were conducted in Dodowa, in Southern Ghana, and in Tamale, in Northern Ghana, in early 2015.

Even though agriculture constitutes a major component of Ghana's gross domestic product (GDP), the sector is not featured prominently in the media. This is largely due to journalists' limited ability to capture, analyze, and report on agriculture developments and policy issues.

To remedy this, APSP's *Media Training in Agriculture Reporting and Communication* workshops brought together 53 journalists (15 women and 38 men) to enhance their knowledge of Ghana's Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy, the agriculture policy process, and techniques for monitoring Ghana's Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP).

The workshops equipped journalists with the requisite skills to monitor METASIP implementation, strengthen their analytical abilities, and enhance their capacity to demand mutual accountability in the allocation and use of public funds for the development of agriculture in Ghana. Solomon Alavi, an online agriculture journalist, expressed his satisfaction noting that, "My participation at this workshop has been beneficial. It has equipped me with knowledge and broadened my understanding of tracking the agriculture budget and expenditures."

To demonstrate their commitment to enhance coverage of agriculture-related issues, the attendees set up a Facebook page for agriculture journalists to engage in the discussion and publishing of these topics. Furthermore, the participants identified 53 topics about the agriculture sector that will be published in the coming months, which will increase awareness on the importance of farming for Ghana's overall social and economic development.
(www.facebook.com/groups/AgricJournalistsGhana/).

APSP is working closely with the media and building the capacity of journalists to assist in amplifying the voices of private stakeholders in the policy process, to expand reporting on agriculture-related issues, and to communicate the outcomes of agriculture policy public-private dialogues.

Telling Our Story

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FEED THE FUTURE AGRICULTURE POLICY SUPPORT PROJECT (APSP)

**FIRST REPORT ON DEVELOPING AN ENABLING
ENVIRONMENT FOR SEED INDUSTRY GROWTH FOR GHANA
— DESKTOP ANALYSIS**

March, 2015

This report was produced for review by Chemonics International Inc. It was prepared by Iowa State University's consultant Joseph E. Cortes (PhD).

