FAST FACTS

Country: GHANA
Programme: Mainstreaming drylands development issues into national, district and community level development policies, plans, and programmes within the context of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification under the Integrated Drylands Development Programme
Period: 2006 -2012
Donor: Denmark and European Commission (European Union)
Total Funding: Denmark USD 514,450.00; European Commission USD 72,000.00

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<tr>
<th>Country Basic Profile</th>
<th>Status of UNCCD Implementation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total land area: 238,500 Sq. Km (WB, 2001)</td>
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<td>% of drylands: 100% (UNSO, 1999)</td>
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<td>Poverty: 28.5%</td>
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<td>Per capita GNP: $1,098 (WB 2010)</td>
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<td>GDP (US$ billion): 26.2%</td>
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<td>Agriculture (%GDP): 34.9% (WB, 2001)</td>
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<td>Life expectancy at birth: 63.4</td>
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<td>Adult literacy: 66%</td>
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<td>HDI: 0.467 (HDR 2010)</td>
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<th>Major national policies and programmes</th>
<th>Bilateral and multilateral programmes</th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy (FASDEPII - 2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Ghana Strategic Investment Framework (GSIF) for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) - 2011-2015</td>
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<td>▪ National Forest and Wildlife Policy (1994)</td>
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Donor partners in Ghana (not only for IDDP): CIDA-Canada, UK-DFID, DANIDA - Denmark, EC/EU, UNDP, World Bank, USAID, GIZ-Germany, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Africa Development Bank.  

Programme synergies and collaboration at national level
Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation, Enhancing Agricultural Biodiversity and
Reducing Poverty (SLaM) in Ghana, a 4 year project that has contributed to sustainable management of the land, especially by resource-poor farmers, while addressing global incremental benefits in conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity, forests and agro-ecosystems.

Inter sectoral partnerships developed among government departments such as the Environmental Protection Agency; Water Resources Commission; the District Agriculture Development Unit of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture; Forestry Services Division of the Forestry Commission; and the District Assemblies to encourage communities to plant trees along the river banks in order to leave a buffer between their farm lands and water bodies. This is to protect the soil from eroding and also prevent siltation. These inter agency collaboration is assisting to enforce the buffer distance policy of the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing.

Programme Implementing Partners
The main implementing partners include the following institutions:

i. Environmental Protection Agency (National Sustainable Land Management Secretariat-Coordinating) – lead institution;

ii. Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (Local Authorities);

iii. Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development;

iv. Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources;

v. National Development Planning Commission;

vi. UNDP Country and GEF Small Grant Programme Offices

vii. District Agricultural Development Unit (Ministry of Food and Agriculture); and

viii. Forestry Services Division (Forestry Commission)

Brief description of issues/problems addressed by programme:

Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP): The IDDP addresses three interlinked issues of importance to poverty alleviation in the drylands:

1. Mainstreaming of drylands issues into national policies, planning and development frameworks

2. Reducing vulnerability of communities to environmental, economic and socio-cultural challenges

3. Improving local governance, management and utilization of natural resources

The IDDP in Ghana addresses the following issues:

i. Mainstreaming of environment and drylands issues into District Medium Term Development Plans in 24 drylands as means to implement NAP, the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) and the Millennium Development Goals;

ii. Increasing productive capacity of framers for sustainable livelihoods in drylands districts

iii. Promotion of sustainable use and management of the environment and natural resources for improved livelihoods

iv. Vulnerability and disaster risk reduction in arid and semi arid areas, especially drought

v. Environmental awareness creation and efficient management of natural resources (soil, land and water)

Brief summary of programme achievements to date:

- Environment and drylands issues mainstreamed in all development programmes, including the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II).

- A training Manual, guidelines and handbook on SEA methodology developed and is being used in capacity building at national and district levels

- Capacity of EPA staff and other 46 stakeholders including 21 District Development Planning Officers and 18 District Coordinating Officers built in the use of SEA methodology.
Awareness on environmental issues and management of natural resources raised and capacity of District Development Planning Officers from all Districts in the Northern Regions built in the mainstreaming process.

The 24 Drylands districts have reviewed their development plans using the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and mainstreamed environment and drylands issues into their District Medium Term Development Plans (DMTDP) as basis for the implementation of NAP, the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) and Millennium Development Goals.

An Integrated Community Livelihoods Initiative -ICLI (that combines income generating activities, e.g., guinea fowl production, establishment of tree nurseries and economic tree planting, woodlots establishment, creation of riverine vegetation, small ruminants production, and crop production -agricultural production, etc, in support of activities mainstreamed by the participating Districts Assemblies in their DMTDP of 2009-2011 (participating districts 24 in total) developed and under implementation in six Districts. The community integrated livelihood support initiative is aimed at improving the living standards of the rural population, enhancing food security, generating rural employment and contributing to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas as well as providing ecological services.

ICLI is under implementation Lawra and Jirapa-Lambussie District Assemblies in Upper West District, Bawku West and Garu-Tempane District Assemblies in Upper East region; and West Mamprusi and Savelugu/Nanton District Assemblies in Northern Region.

Capacity of District Assemblies (24 Districts) in all three Northern Regions built in mainstreaming; and 6 District Assemblies implementing livelihoods activities under ICLI.

Capacity of farmers and interest groups, i.e., youth, women and NGOs built in guinea fowl farming, small ruminants production, economic tree planting, and crop production.

Capacity of the poorest among the poor built in income generating activities and agricultural inputs and improved animal stock provided to start up establishing income generating operations by the farmers themselves, these include widows, the aged and the other vulnerable groups selected by the District Assemblies. Examples: West Mamprusi: 10 families are rearing small ruminants; Bawku West: 8 families are rearing small ruminants, Tilli: a female farmer (widow) is raising small ruminants (goats). She was given 5 goats and these have multiplied into 10.

Productivity of farm lands enhanced through the supply and planting of leguminous seeds. For example: In Savelugu Nanton District (Gbumbbum, Dingoni, Zieng and Gbanga) a total acreage of maize planted in the 4 communities is 27; and the total acreage of soya bean is 17.5. In total 11 out of the 13 communities were facilitated to develop their own land use development plans to be submitted to other donors for possible funding.

Large hectares of drylands have been turned into mangoes, cashew and fuel wood plantations and a network of community planted tree gardens/orchards established in six (6) districts, farmer households and one school, as part of economic trees and other species activities. For example: West Mamprusi: 1200 grated mango seedlings and 800 assorted seedlings including moringa, cashew, cassia, etc, planted; Lawra: 1000 cashew and 300 grated mango seedlings procured, distributed and planted by farmers; Bawku West: 800 grated mango seedlings procured and planted. A nursery established and over 1000 assorted seedlings including moringa, cassia, alberzia, kapok among others grown; Savelugu/Nanton: 800 grated mango seedlings and 500 other trees procured and planted; Garu Tempane: 800 grated mangoes procured and planted by two communities in the district to establish mango plantations.

Productive capacity of Guinea Fowl Farmers enhanced and production increased though provision of
well fertilized and healthy guinea fowls eggs; these have improved and increased their stocks. **For example: Savelugu Nanton:** Four communities and four individual farmers are rearing guinea fowls successfully; **Talensi-Nabdam:** Six families are rearing guinea fowls, **Lawra:** 5 farmers have initiated guinea fowl framing; **Garu Tempene:** 3 households started guinea fowl production in this District after experiencing the success of the other farmers; and success stories shared through organized Farmer Field Schools.

- Twenty two farmer families participating in guinea fowl production and others in crop and drylands farming/agriculture. Farmers are now able to pay school fees, purchase uniforms, seeds from planting, fertilizer to increase yields, access health facilities through the purchase of health premium from Guinea Fowl and small ruminants production.

- New skills have been acquired by farmers and there is a change on mindset within communities on how activities such as guinea fowl and small ruminants production can be transformed into profitable livelihoods options.

- A baseline survey and assessment on the institutional capacity needs and policies that impact on the production of products under the livelihoods support activities being implemented undertaken through a participatory roundtable/workshop that brought together 20 participants (6 women and 14 men). Practical demonstration of the phases and life cycle of the programme; problems/challenges faced, and examples from the field presented and recommendations made as a basis for developing the market access component of the programme. Market linkages, existing technologies, capacity, micro financing systems and micro enterprises in Ghana that can useful for the programme to enhance the Integrated Livelihood Support Activities identified.

- Coordinating mechanism set-up between EPA, Ministry of Agriculture, District Assemblies and other partners involved in environment mainstreaming in the country.

- Learning promoted: success stories shared through organized Farmer Field Schools.

- Learning promoted through South-South Cooperation (Ghana hosted Tanzania): Capacity of key decision makers and implementing partners built in application of the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) methodology to review policies. Ten (10) Tanzania senior government officials from various ministries that include the Vice Presidents Office, Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries, National Bureau of Statistics, Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government and Iramba District Officials participated in a study tour in Ghana to learn about SEA and its application. The team learnt how SEA is used/applied as an environmental management tool to promote sustainable development. As part of their training, the team visited one of the dryland districts where SEA has been applied in identifying and implementing sustainable land management approaches. Based on the knowledge gained, policies that impact on and legislations on pastoral production, land use and water management in Tanzania were reviewed using the SEA and other participatory tools by the Ministry of Livestock as basis for recommending policy change to the Parliamentary Committee responsible.

- Learning promoted: Learning promoted: experiences lessons learnt shared with other IDDP participating countries during the round table on making markets work for the poor that brought together 109 participants from 6 drylands countries (Kenya, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda). The participants included policy makers at national and/or local levels (Districts) from the six countries, 22 representatives from various drylands communities (product groups producing honey, handicrafts, livestock and livestock products and aloe products), non-governmental organizations, 18 Parastatal and Government Institutions, 12 private sector organizations, focal points from 6 UNDP country offices, United Nations Agencies and other development agencies and donor partners (Australia, UK-DFID, EC, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and USAID).
Learning promoted through south-south cooperation (Ghana - Mozambique). The Ghana study team composed of four representatives, 2 from the national implementing and coordinating partner, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and 2 Technical Experts from the beneficiary District Assemblies was received and hosted by INGC's Directorate of Arid and Semi-arid regions and representatives in the Districts of Chigubo, Mabote, District Administrations, local communities and the CENOE team in Vilanculos, 30 October to 5 November, 2011. Experiences and lessons learnt shared and exchanged on interventions and activities underway to reduce the vulnerability of communities in arid and semi-arid districts affected by drought and desertification. At Chigubo and Mabote Districts, the team visited the CERUM (Centros de Recursos e de Uso Múltiplo or Community Multiple Resource Use Centre, and studied the plots of experiments, nurseries of native plants being produced with support from IDDP, food crops being grown using various technologies such as mulching techniques, ridges and trenches. The group also visited Catine Women's group (Chigubo) which with support of INGC are producing and marketing handcrafts, Women’s Association - Cashew Nut Processing (Mabote) and CENOE, (Centro Nacional Operative de Emergencia) in Vilanculos to study Mozambique's national emergency operational system. CENOE is part of the strategy of INGC for response to a disaster or disasters when these occur.

Lessons Learnt

- Previous development plans failed to give enough emphasis to critical drylands development issues to which the vulnerable are most exposed, including flooding, drought, climatic variability, food insecurity, poverty, water borne diseases, fire outbreaks, etc.;
- Insufficient recognition is given to the crucial links between environmental quality, livelihoods, health and vulnerability of the poor in the dryland areas;
- For guinea fowl production: Inadequacy of the requisite initial protein content of feed for guinea fowl kits accounted for their high mortality rate during the initial production phase;
- The use of indigenous/traditional knowledge and technology as entry points is important for livelihoods development programmes;
- Active involvement of affected communities in planning and execution of community development programmes is key to success;
- The programme has adopted a demand driven approach to ensure sustainability; this has resulted in ownership of the programme by the grass-roots and/or its beneficiaries.
- The political base and understanding of drylands issues is necessary for the progress of community initiatives in the livelihoods programmes. In areas where the elected Assembly Members had participated in the awareness creation on drylands issues, these have served as facilitators in mobilizing their electorate to embrace the livelihoods support programme.

Key challenges

- Disaster risk (drought, floods and bush fires) and climatic variability constrain implementation of activities
- Increasing demand from other non participating farmers to be included into the Community Livelihoods Initiative and lack of funding for up-scaling of current successful activities
- Frequent transfer of trained district assembly staff working on the project to other district which has resulted in funds that would have gone to ILCI being allocated for continuous capacity building of newly appointed staff and for awareness raising on the opportunities and challenges in the drylands districts. The need for capacity building of District Assembly staff and new appointed staff poses a huge challenge.
- Inadequate funds to support all the 24 drylands districts who have already mainstreamed environment and drylands issues into the district plans to initiate their own ICLI. There is the urgent need to build up funding to ensure implementation of on ground activities, at the moment supply outweighs demand.
- Protection of young seedlings from browsing by farm animals. It requires a lot of effort (time and money) to keep them from sheep and goats.
- Collection and documentation of lessons learnt and experiences accumulated over time.
There are very long distances between project sites (all the sites are in the drylands Districts found in the North of Ghana); the large number of beneficiaries, single farmers and their families as opposed to organized groups of farmers and scattered farms pose a challenge in providing extension services and technical backstopping. This increases the cost of implementation and in particular for workplanning, monitoring and providing technical backstopping.

Limited water sources hence watering of the young and old seedlings of the economic trees during the long dry seasons in the three northern regions is a major task for the farmers. The drylands in Northern Ghana suffer from water deficit, especially the Districts of Baku West. Even though the project has provided water tanks to the farmers, it is still an arduous task to fetch the water from the various water bodies to fill these. This is making watering of the trees planted during the long dry season a huge challenge. The project team in consultation with UNDP has however agreed to undertake a south-south cooperation activity with Mozambique to learn about tree planting techniques (planting being applied in their drylands) that don’t need watering. This is being organized for early 2011.

**Perspectives: what next for the Ghana programme?**

1. Develop and implement a market access component that will build capacity of farmers (training in business development skills) in book keeping to establish financial records similar to the ones for production; and move from production into marketing of products, i.e., market linkages, etc;

2. Scale-up the integrated community livelihood support activities and extend it from six to all 24 district assemblies;

3. Mobilize additional partners and lobby Government to provide support for water activities (mainly access) in some drylands districts;

4. Promote south-south cooperation between Ghana and other IDDP participating countries and/or other drylands countries to promote learning and transfer knowledge and technology

5. Identify, and document/codify and disseminate experiences, lessons learnt, and best practices

6. Support improvement of the facilities at Farmer Akunde’s guinea fowl production site at Tilli (Upper East Region) and transform into a training model centre and farmers’ field school for guinea fowl production. Support production of day old guinea chicks to be sold to other farmers in the project area through the provision of incubator and solar panels among other accessories;

7. Construct three boreholes in three communities i.e., Kanpuoh and Nandom Tanchara in the Lawra district (Upper West Region) and Yikurug community in the Bawku West District (Upper East Region) to provide easy access to water for beneficiaries to water their tree plantations;

8. Undertake research and advise farmers on potential products for diversification;

9. Provide farm inputs to crop farmers in the form of improved or certified seeds (e.g., soya beans, cowpea and groundnut) to enable farmers to continue improving soil fertility as well as to intensify agriculture;

10. Promote drylands agriculture/conservation agriculture and build capacity of farmers to practice

11. Support creation of tree seedlings nurseries in all the 24 Districts and identify farmers who can undertake this initiative as an option for income generation

12. Build capacity of District Assemblies and District Agriculture Development Units to provide extension education to the beneficiaries and to provide extension education through the District Agriculture Development Units. The Extension Services’ ability to effectively transfer agricultural
technologies to farmers is essential for sustainable agricultural development. The farmer/extension ratio in Ghana is still high to allow effective contact.

13. Continue with awareness raising on the opportunities and challenges in the drylands

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