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WEST AFRICA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMME DE PRODUCTIVITE AGRICOLE EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

# Key Results in Ghana



December 2018



# Ghana



The Government of Ghana invested during the period 2008-2017, a total of \$US 75 Million to increase the productivity of roots & tubers (cassava, yam, sweet potato, cocoyam), poultry, small ruminants and horticulture (tomatoes, onion & pepper) value chains. The main activities supported were:

- i. Research and development infrastructural construction and rehabilitation and equipment procurement;
- ii. Training of young scientists and extension agents;
- iii. Technologies and innovation (T&I) generation;
- iv. T&I dissemination for broad adoption.

**Major** Research & Development; infrastructural construction & equipment (2008 - 2016)

**\$US 7.3 Million**



**Major** Renewal of research-development personnel (2008 - 2016)

**\$US 1.26 Million**

**81 Young Scientists Trained**

Technologies dissemination between 2008 - 2016

**\$US 13.38 Million**

**455 324** farmers adopted T&I on **613 533 ha**



**Major** Research & Development activities between 2008 - 2016

**47 Technologies and Innovations Released**

**\$US 4.348 Million**

# Success Stories



## Consolidating agricultural productivity through efficient innovation platforms

**G**hana has developed over 30 agricultural technologies since the West African Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) was initiated in 2007.

WAAPP's development objective is to generate and disseminate improved technologies in the country's top priority commodities in root and tuber crops, specifically, cassava, yam, sweet potato and cocoyam.

WAAPP Ghana has the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) as its implementing agency.

Under the implementation of the first phase of the Programme, researchers at the CSIR-Crops Research Institute in Kumasi – the designated National Centre of Specialization – have developed diverse crop varieties and agricultural technologies.

However, the rate of transfer and adaptation of these technologies remains low along the agricultural value chain, observed Augustine Danquah of WAAPP's Coordination Unit at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

This is because the project did not develop a comprehensive action plan to scale up technologies and best practices during the implementation of the first phase.

Director of CSIR-CRI, Dr. Stella Ennin, has acknowledged there have been gaps in previous participatory approaches to research.

She says the previous approach placed emphasis on farmers and extension whilst others in the value chain were placed in the background.

Adopting the innovation platform and Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IR4D) approaches, according to Dr. Ennin, is critical in engaging all key players long the agricultural value chain, including processes, traders and marketers.

“Usually we are able to move forward when there are projects in agriculture; what happens in the absence of projects?” she quizzed. “We should be able to incorporate this concept of innovation platforms and IR4D into our agricultural and extension system, so that whether there is a project or not, we'll be able to move our agriculture forward”.

Innovative platforms give room for interest groups to discuss issues around a particular commodity or cropping system, especially with the view to adopting improved technologies.

Under the second phase of WAAPP, the platforms are being promoted to consolidate the gains by disseminating the developed technologies for widespread adoption.

WAAPP is collaborating with the International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA) to build capacity of innovative platform facilitators in 15 districts in the country on soft skills to deepen the approach at the local level.

ICRA's Benjamin Horlali Kofi Atidjah says technical skills must be complemented with soft skills to accelerate the adoption of agricultural technologies.

The second phase of WAAPP will be implemented from 2012-2017 with an amount of \$60million to scale-up the generation, dissemination and adoption of improved technologies in the participating countries' priority agricultural commodity areas.

"What we need to do right now is to move the innovation platforms beyond the community level; we should be able to establish innovation platform at the regional level and the national level for certain commodities... to improve on our food security and also on our exports," said Dr. Stella Ennin.

The two-phase 10-year programme is funded by the World Bank and involves three countries – Ghana, Mali and Senegal.





## **WAAPP supports the construction of 260 Greenhouses in Ghana: Over \$100,000 released for optimum growth and productivity of vegetables**

**T**he World Bank has released over \$100,000 to the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) under the coordination of the West and Central African Council for agricultural research and development (CORF/WECARD) to support a Greenhouse Project for the cultivation of vegetables in Ghana. This funding will allow the construction of at least 260 greenhouses to grow vegetables such as tomato, cucumber and sweet pepper under fully controlled environmental conditions for optimum growth and productivity.

WAAPP Ghana is then promoting the greenhouse technology as a means of increasing yields and incomes of vegetable farmers across the country.

In 2015 WAAPP has allowed the construction of 150 greenhouses nationwide to promote peri-urban vegetable farming in Ghana. The programme had also supported

the National Extension Directorate and the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority to establish 10 other greenhouses for demonstration purposes.

According to National deputy Coordinator of WAAPP Ghana, Mrs Azara Al-Mamshie, the introduction of this technology would also open fresh window of opportunity to build the capacity of at least 300 regional development officers and 10 supervisors from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in greenhouse management. “The intervention is expected to generate direct jobs for at least 1,000 vegetable farmers and 5,000 indirect beneficiaries along the commodity value chain,” she said.

The second phase of the WAAPP project was expected to benefit 700,000 individuals along the value chain at the end of the project’s cycle of which 40 per cent should be women.



# A Taste for Guinea Fowl Could Hatch Thousands of Jobs in Ghana

**G**ideon Anaba has been up since dawn, checking on soon-to-be hatched guinea keets, feeding grown guinea fowl and tending to customers who have come to buy eggs and birds. Ever since he retired from active service, the 64-year-old's days have been fuller than ever. And it's no wonder, because increasing demand has turned what was once a part-time pursuit into a booming business.

"In local restaurants, people prefer guinea fowl to imported poultry meat", says Anaba, a guinea fowl farmer in Boku, Ghana. A favorite at roadside barbecue stands and upscale restaurants throughout Ghana, the nutritious and low-fat guinea fowl represents a lucrative business for smallholder farmers who want a low-maintenance livestock to raise.

The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP), which works with researchers, farmers and others to build a food system to feed every African, is growing the guinea fowl industry into an engine of job creation in rural Ghana. Over the past two years, WAAPP has helped 80 guinea fowl farmers in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions of Ghana scale up operations. It has also revitalized production of a

homegrown vaccine to combat Newcastle disease, a virus that is deadly to poultry. More than 38 million doses of the vaccine have been released to 137,400 farmers since 2013, and the vaccine is now being exported to other West African countries, including Niger and The Gambia.

Every WAAPP beneficiary receives a starter kit that includes financial support, an incubator, generator, 500 eggs, dewormer, feed and vaccines. Beneficiary farmers also receive regular visits from agricultural trainers who teach them how to care for birds so that more survive. Incubators and techniques such as housing birds to protect them from hawks have boosted the production rate of guinea fowl by more than 500%. With WAAPP assistance, farmers can now produce between 600 and 800 birds per quarter, up from less than 100 birds per year.

This can be transformational for small guinea fowl farms, where the survival rate can make or break the business.

WAAPP-Ghana's guinea fowl program is designed so that beneficiary farmers also support others in their community. Each WAAPP-sponsored farmer is paired with an aspiring



guinea fowl farmer, to whom he provides guidance and access to resources. For a low fee, WAAPP beneficiaries also rent out space in their incubators to farmers who want to hatch their eggs. Entire communities of guinea fowl farmers have thrived as a result, with up to 50,000 people benefiting from WAAPP's initial investment in just 80 farmers.

«Agriculture is already one of Ghana's biggest employers, but the energy and optimism that fuels the sector means that it can have an even bigger impact,» says Henry Kerali, Country Director, Ghana. «The Bank is supporting Ghana's guinea fowl industry because it's ripe for expansion--it has the potential to create thousands of jobs, earn revenue by selling to the local and international market and help alleviate poverty.»

Recognizing the industry's potential, a community of dozens of farmers are eager to benefit from the experience of Adamu Mubarik, a 34-year-old guinea fowl farmer from Garu Tempane district (721 Km from Accra, the capital), «I get calls from Kongo, Basunde, every corner of this district,» he says. «They want to hatch their eggs using the incubator or buy eggs or aguinea keet. They've heard of the farm and want to see what I'm practicing here.» Mubarik, who received a starter kit from WAAPP in 2013 and now produces up to 3,200 birds a year, is keen to put others on the path to success. He incubates eggs for other farmers for as low as 20 pesewas or US\$ 0.05 cents per egg and advises young people on how to get started as a guinea fowl farmer.

«Before WAAPP gave us technologies and techniques to protect our birds from predators and disease, I couldn't make more than 100 birds a year. Now our losses are very few—this year alone we had over 800 birds so I hired people to help me,» he says. «Thanks to income from this business, I paid my children's university bills without going in for a loan.» Says Adamu Mubarik.

Mubarik pays it forward because he knows what it's like to face a dearth of opportunity—a challenge shared by many ambitious, hardworking youth in Africa. He was once a university graduate who had difficulty finding a job and was forced to rely on his uncle in Accra for support. Now, he's an entrepreneur who is single-handedly sending his sister to university, providing for his family and expanding his business to create jobs and serve the needs of his district. Mubarik's success makes him a role model for young people who have the drive to make it on their own. «Guinea fowl is an industry that is lucrative for every young man to go into. This is an area you can make profit,» he says. «Young men should go into guinea fowl rearing-- it can really change your lives.»

## About WAAPP

The West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP) involves 13 countries. The 10-years program was designed to make agriculture more productive, sustainable and profitable for smallholder farmers in West Africa. Started in 2007, WAAPP also aims to improve the conditions of life of consumers through the provision of agricultural products at competitive prices, build a critical mass of researchers for sound, efficient and collaborative research programs and finally to ensure that technologies generated nationally are available regionally. The WAAPP was established at the initiative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as a response to the renewed commitment by African countries to implement the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). Participating countries fund the USD 500 million program through a loan system obtained from the World Bank. At the regional level, the program is coordinated by CORAF. More than two hundred technologies were released and adopted by almost 4,5 million producers and processors on about 4.8 million hectares. These technologies are available on [www.mita.coraf.org](http://www.mita.coraf.org). WAAPP financed master degree and Ph.D. studies for 1021 youths. This represents 72% of men and 28% women. These young researchers are expected to replace most the agriculture researchers going on retirement. The nine national centers of specializations of countries participating in the program benefitted from the renovation of their infrastructure and new research laboratories were constructed. Two of the centers have been upgraded in regional centers of specialization. This includes the Dry Cereals Center based in Senegal and The Roots and Tuber center based in Ghana. By increasing the primary crops yields between 30% for dry cereals and 150% for rice, fruit, and tubers, the program has had a considerable impact on food security and caloric intake. Caloric consumption rose from 2,777 kcals to 2,964 kcals and the "hunger period" reduced by 28 to 55% according to the commodity. WAAPP has also increased by 34% the economic situation of farmers as well as transformed communities.

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