

## ANNEX 2

### SPF Narrative Progress Report FEBRUARY – JULY 2009

Report period

Contract Ref. No. 02/SPF/22  
FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA  
Contact Tel. No. 021- 254518  
2009

Organisation **PEASANT**

Report Date 11<sup>th</sup> August

Report Prepared by VICTORIA ADONGO  
Signature & date

Report Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & date

80801

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Please do not write in green coloured sections; refer to notes at last page for explanations

#### 1. Project Outputs on research and advocacy and/or services delivered

List the outputs as you have presented in the Workplan submitted to G-RAP.

Make sure that you:

- Indicate estimated levels of completion per output
- Indicate target groups that used / received the output delivered
- Attach copy of product output

Outline outputs during this period	What specific policy issues does this target	What advocacy outputs were informed by your research
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Assess the impact of government's temporary initiative on farm subsidies. By assessing the effectiveness and the efficiency of the coupon system of fertilizer distribution and influence government to maintain subsidies</p> <p>a. 100% completed</p> <p>b. Target groups that would use the generated information from the output include the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Food and</li> </ul>	<p>Since the Structural Adjustment Programmes in the 1980's and the subsequent trade liberalization, government withdrew subsidies to farmers and opened up our local markets to foreign products. This led to the decline in food production whilst at the same time allowing the influx of foreign foods such as tomatoes paste, rice and poultry especially. This "dumping" stifled local farmers' access to market and the high cost of inputs led to reduction in local food production since most small scale farmers could not get access to inputs to increase their produce. The situation led to immerse poverty among peasant farmers.</p> <p>The situation was further aggravated by the global financial crisis, fuel crisis and</p>	<p>PFAG has always been advocating for credit to farmers, access to market and competitiveness hence our advocacy for an agricultural credit and competitiveness fund since 2006 with funding from BUSAC. We have presented a bill through the Minister of Food and Agriculture to be considered and tabled in Parliament.</p> <p>The fertilizer subsidy was in line with this advocacy and we want to ensure that it actually reached or benefited those it was meant for being the poor small scale farmers. We would like to optimise the benefit by drawing government's attention to its weaknesses and making an input to improving it. We also want to see poverty reduction among our farmers through improved and increased production and access to market.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Farmer organisations</li> <li>• NGO's working with farmers</li> <li>• District Assemblies</li> <li>• Agricultural Input Dealers</li> <li>• World Bank</li> <li>• Bilateral donors</li> <li>• Civil Society in Trade and Agricultural Policies</li> <li>• Farmers</li> </ul>	<p>above all the food crisis. This immediate cause of further poverty and possible starvation led the government to announce a programme to mitigate the negative effects or impact of the food crisis. This was to be done by "supporting" farmers with a 50% subsidy on all kinds of fertilizer</p> <p>PFAG would like to see this subsidy continue until there is enough food to feed the country and export. Also that farmers in the country have increased their production level which combined with access to market will go to reduce poverty among poor small scale farmers.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers</li> <li>• Parliamentary Select Committees on Food and Agriculture and Finance and Economic Planning</li> <li>• Civil Society Organisation in Agriculture</li> </ul> <p>OUTPUT 11 Project to support our members especially women to increase and improve food /soya production through credit facility.</p> <p>40% completed</p> <p>Target groups receiving/using the output are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300 farmer members 60% of which are women, in four communities in the Tamale and Savelugu</li> </ul>	<p>Government support to farmers in the form of credit</p>	



<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cotton Farmers</li> <li>2. Cotton Companies</li> <li>3. Government of Ghana</li> <li>4. Citizens of Ghana</li> <li>5. European Union (Funders of the Project)</li> </ol>		
OUTPUT 1		
Task 1		
Undertake evidence based research on coupon system		
Task II		
<p>Commission research on coupon system The research was commissioned to Gharthey &amp; Associates a private consulting firm in Accra.</p> <p>Terms of Reference were developed and followed by an inception report.</p> <p>The Consultant was accompanied by the National President to PFAG member in study areas namely: Tamale, Kintampo North and South, Techiman, Ashaiman and Dangbwe East Districts.</p> <p>Data was also collected from Input dealers in the specified regions</p>		
Task III		
<p>Validation of report The research findings were validated by farmers and representatives from the following organisations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Apex Farmers Organisation of Ghana</li> <li>ii. Oxfam Ghana</li> </ol>		

iii. SEND GHANA iv. Ghana Trade and Livelihood Coalition v. Ashaiman Irrigation Co- operative		
Task IV		
Launching of report The report was launched by the Chief Director Policy Monitoring and Evaluation of MOFA representing the Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture Crops Division The occasion was combined with a press conference during which the press		
Task V		
Dissemination of report		
OUTPUT 11		
Task I		
Project appraisal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• visit              beneficiary              communities              with Project              Manager of              FARM              (funders)</li> </ul>		
Task II		
Ploughing for farmers		
Task III		
Distribution of seeds and other inputs to farmers		
Task IV		
First monitoring visit		
Task V		
Training on soya cultivation		
Task VI		
Spraying of weedicides		
OUTPUT III		
Task 1		
Final BUSAC activity Final stakeholders workshop on Agricultural Credit Bill		

held in Tamale.		
OUTPUT IV		
Project appraisal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders consultation by Tradecom consultants</li> </ul>		

## 2. What is the organisations success in undertaking this special project

The research findings of 60 per cent increase in food production has vindicated us on our advocacy for credit, in the sense that it has proven that with credit support farmers can increase production. It will also make government aware that the organisation is closely monitoring the policy.

Secondly, the findings will also form a basis for further evaluation of the coupons system of fertilizer distribution and the fertilizer subsidy itself.

Thirdly, production increases can be monitored using the current findings as baseline.

Fourthly, this is an evaluation from the farmer's own perspective and a contribution to government's efforts.

## 3. Stakeholder Perception

**How has the credibility and legitimacy of your RAOs changed in the eyes of GoG and the Ghana public? What is your interpretation? Is there a reference to this evidence of change?**

A measure of our credibility and legitimacy was indicated in the Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture in charge of crop's keen interest in the report to the extent he agreed to launch it until the last minute when he realised that there was a miscommunication entered in his Secretary's diary. All the same he made efforts to find a replacement. The same went for the Minister of Women and Children who was invited rather too late but sent a representative with a message.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture was represented by the Director of Policy and Monitoring and Evaluation, the sector directly responsible for the coupon system, who launched the report.

Our interpretation of this is that the government is ready to listen to issues concerning small scale farmers. The Deputy Minister made this known when he verbally informed PFAG that his doors were always opened for us.

Copies of the report will be distributed to Parliamentarians on their resumption from recess and a meeting will be held with the Parliament Select Committee on Agriculture and discuss aspects of the report.

Copies are also being sent to other interested organisations and bilateral partners such as CIDA, CARE, WORLD BANK, DANIDA, GTZ, USAID, to name a few; other farmer organisations, the District Agricultural offices who contributed to the research and our members.

We may get some reaction from some especially we do follow up for feedback. It will be after this that we will be in a good position to inform more on perception of stakeholders.

With regards the general public, credibility is high. The press coverage of the report launch was indicative of that. The press reports were followed by calls from individuals and organisations who wanted more information on the coupon system especially those for this year. For example as a result

of the research the PFAG National President was approached by the leader of our members in the Garu Tempene District in Bawku in the Upper East region to help them get coupons which he successfully did. The Programme Coordinator also got two calls: one came from the Director of the Agriculture extension of the University of Ghana faculty of Agriculture and Consumer Services who wanted a copy of the report. The second came from YARA a fertilizer supplier who wanted a meeting to discuss collaboration with PFAG. The meeting is yet to take place.

Copies of the various press reports are attached. All TV stations reported the launch and some areas of the report. The National President also granted interviews to the press.

Radio stations like Unique FM, (29<sup>th</sup> July) and Peace FM (30<sup>th</sup> July) also reported in their news items.

The report was also posted on the Ghana Web by Ghana News Agency. At the time of sending this report the Programme had granted a recorded interview to Radio Gold to be aired on a later date.

#### **4. What is your perception on the general policy making environment in Ghana**

The general policy making environment in Ghana is very slow and lacks political will. The policy environment is quite conducive in that there is enough tolerance for groups, organisations and even individuals to advocate for policy formulation and implementation. However, government lacks the will to either formulate or put a policy in place and if it does it's only on paper and not implemented to the full or not implemented at all. This may be due to several factors; our political economy is linked with others globally and therefore experiences external influences. An example is world trade and agricultural policies such as tariff barriers, and subsidies. Locally, there are bottlenecks such as greedy and corrupt politicians and others who divert monies meant for projects and other interventions for citizens of the country, just to mention a few.

#### **5. Grant and report related issues**

##### **5.1 What issues do you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management?**

The Grant Management Team are excellent in carrying out their work and maintaining a good rapport between them and RAOs. In relation to the grant it would be a good idea to extend core funding to organisations that have enjoyed the SPF and are promising to perform well in carrying out the project.

GRAP could support young organisations like PFAG to grow into formidable ones like other very well-known RAOs through institutional capacity building, core funding and the Special Project Fund. Support an agricultural RAO like PFAG is very critical given that the world's and the country focus is now on agriculture.

##### **5.2 What parts of the report are confidential or cannot be shared without prior consent?**

NONE.