

ANNEX 2

SPF Narrative Progress Report

DECEMBER, 2009

Report period JULY TO

Contract Ref. No. 02/SPF/22

FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF G HANA

Organisation PEASANT

Contact Tel. No. 021 254518, 0244657451

31ST JANUARY 2010

Report Date

Report Prepared by VICTORIA ADONGO

Signature & date

Report Approved by

Signature & date

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

80801

=====

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
Output 1		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocacy for support in the local rice industry. Drawing government's attention to the problems in the rice value chain. 2. Sensitizing interested parties to confront challenges. 3. Influencing tasting habits in local rice <p>100% completed Target groups that would use the output include The government Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industry Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary Committees on Food and Agriculture, • Trade and Industry • Finance and Economic Planning • Consumers 	<p>This activity targeted the Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy (FASDEP11) and more specifically the draft National Rice Sector Development Strategy</p> <p>The Food and Agricultural Development Sector Policy 11 (FASDEP 11) have sampled rice as one five staple crops that should be developed, in attaining food security in the country</p>	<p>. Statistics gathered in 2008 indicated that Ghana is only 30% self-sufficient in rice production which is 160,000 metric tonnes when the total demand is 600,000 metric tonnes</p> <p>During the 2009 crop season, the Government of Ghana supported rice</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General public • Foreign rice importers • Farmer Associations, <p>Beneficiaries of the output include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice growers • Processors, brokers/sellers and consumers and the general public • Government of Ghana • Input Dealers • NGO's working with farmers • CSO's in trade and agricultural policies 	<p>The new direction in FASDEP 11 is to develop agriculture and ensure sustainability through the value chain approach, value addition and market access.</p>	<p>production by giving inputs to rice growers to increase their yields. Therefore, an estimated increase of 20% over the previous year's is expected. The government and some donor partners have set up the Rice Sector Support Project to help improve rice production and the industry as a whole. However, there are numerous challenges in the value chain that have to be addressed in order to successfully improve the sector. Issues of quality of rice to meet consumer demand, access to market, processing, storage, change in consumer preference of foreign rice, tariffs to say the least, are some of the problems that government has to solve in the rice</p>
<p>Output 11</p>		
<p>Project to support farmers especially women to increase food production/soya to reduce poverty, through credit facility</p> <p>100% completed</p> <p>Target groups using/receiving output delivered are;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 farmer members 60% of which are women, in four communities in the Tamale and Savelugu Nanton Districts in the Northern Region • Foundation of World Agriculture and Rural Life (FARM) the grantors of the 		

<p>credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government of Ghana • The Savelugu Nangton and Tamale Districts Ministry of Food and Agriculture 		
<p>Output 111 Project in Fair Trade Cotton for Industry and Export</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revamping the cotton industry in Ghana 2. Reduce poverty among cotton farmers 3. Create employment opportunities 4. Contribute to Gross Domestic Product <p>Only 20% completed</p> <p>Users/Receivers of output</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cotton Farmers 2. Cotton Companies 3. Government of Ghana 4. Citizens of Ghana 5. Ministry of Food and Agriculture 6. European Union 		
OUTPUT 1		
TASK 1		
Strategy meeting held with collaborator – Ghana Trade and Livelihood Coalition		
Task 11		
Exploratory research on rice production of members at the Okyereko, Ashaiman and Atsutuare Irrigation Projects. Preliminary discussions with brokers, millers and large scale buyers/sellers		
Task 111		
<p>One day conference held on the rice value chain combined with a Press Conference to articulate issues highlighted in the conference.</p> <p>Objective of conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify challenges in the rice value chain • To deliberate on how to mitigate some of these challenges ourselves • To seek support from government <p>Goal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop the rice industry and reach sufficiency level by 2011. <p>The conference was attended by about fifty</p>		

<p>participants made up of rice producers, millers/processors, brokers, buyers, sellers and consumers. There were presentations made by representatives from the Crop Division of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, TECHNOSERVE, and representatives of the different stages of the value chain.</p> <p>The report of the conference was distributed to the participants</p>		
<p>Task IV</p>		
<p>Publicity Campaign</p> <p>Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote consumption of local rice • To gradually cause reduction in importation of foreign rice • To create market access for local rice <p>Goal</p> <p>To develop the rice industry</p> <p>This activity coincided with the Christmas period when rice is often consumed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 15,000 SMS texts were sent to the general public by the main service providers, inviting them to buy Ghana rice for Christmas. • The main TV stations were also made to display crawling messages during news times promoting local rice, • announcements were made on Peace FM station, • banners were also hung on various locations in the city of Accra, Tamale and Bolga. All publicity carried contact numbers where people could call for directions to where local rice was sold • stickers were also printed with the messages to consume local rice 		
<p>Task V</p>		
<p>Rice Tasting Sessions in Accra and Tamale</p> <p>Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To change rice eating habits • To promote institutional purchase of local rice 		

<p>To draw Parliament's attention on the rice situation</p> <p>This activity targeted institutions like the Prison Service, Ghana Armed Forces, School Feeding Programme, Ghana Education Service, Caterers' Association of Ghana, Ghana Hoteliers' Association, Ghana Tourist Board, Ministry of Health and others.</p> <p>A Rice Bazaar was held at the Coconut Grove Hotel and all these institutions were invited to eat. Local rice was prepared in various ways with local beef, and chicken, fish and salad. The Chairs and ranking members of the following Parliamentary Committees were also invited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select committee on Food and Agriculture • Trade and Industry • Finance and Economic Planning <p>In Tamale the event was attended by a cross section of society including students, pupils, NGO and CSO,s</p>		
Output 11		
Task 1		
Six monitoring visits to farmers between July to December 2009 Objective: To ensure good harvests of soya Supervision of farms		
Task 11		
Training in farm Financial Management, Group dynamics		
Task 1V		
Spraying of pesticides on farms		
Task V		
Monitoring of harvests		
Task V1		
Training in post harvest management		
Task V11		
Repayment and bagging of soya beans		
Task V11		
Marketing of soya beans		
Output 111		
Task 1		
Stakeholders meeting at Burkina Faso to validate EU Consultants reports and Action Plan In Fair Trade Cotton – October 2009		
Task 11		
Debriefing meeting in Brussels in November		

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

The Stakeholder Conference on the rice value chain was the first of its kind to be held in the country or by any farmer organisation. There has been a lot of advocacy surrounding rice by other Civil Society Organisations and Labour. PFLAG itself has in the past joined other civil society coalitions to advocate for local consumption, institutional purchase and tariff imposition on rice, poultry and tomato, leading to temporary ban on importation of tomato concentrates and tariffs on rice and poultry. However, none of these actions actually looked at the rice value chain as being very crucial to improving rice production in the country. The value chain conference drew attention to this fact.

Secondly, the conference was able to bring actors in the rice value chain across the country to one place at the same time to discuss the different challenges that confront each stage of the value chain process and to agree on possible solutions.

The third successful outcome of the rice conference was the resolution by stakeholders to form the Rice Value Chain Network for advocacy. PFLAG has been tasked to form this Network.

Both the publicity campaign and the tasting session were also very successful. Prior to writing this report, PFLAG conducted a quick survey with the major local rice sellers in Accra including Ghana Rice which has outlets in most parts of Accra and Kumasi, Prairie Volta Rice in Accra have recorded an increase of between 60 and 80% in sales as against the same time last year which they say was about 40 in all varieties. Our farmers are at Ashaiman, for instance are getting requests from new buyers including Forewin Ghana Ltd. a major importer of food products in Ghana. The PFLAG national secretariat was also overwhelmed with calls from individuals and institutions wanting to know where they could get local rice to buy

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?

Credibility and legitimacy of PFLAG has greatly increased and has gained recognition in the eyes of government and public as of Ghana as an organisation representing the voice of farmers in the country. This is indicated as follows:

- The Sector Minister's response to our invitation to attend our activities. For instance he delegated two representatives from his office to the rice tasting bazaar
- The Sector Minister also inspected our soya at Tugu in the Tamale district during his visit there as part of the National Farmers Day held in Tamale last December
- When our National President was awarded the best national soya farmer his citation included his advocacy on behalf of farmers
- Upon request the Crops Division of MOFA sent a facilitator to present and explain the draft National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) and representative from the Irrigation Development Authority
- The Chairmen and Ranking members of the Select Committees on Food and Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Finance and Economic Planning, honoured our invitation to the rice tasting bazaar. All of them made key statements that were well captured by the press. They all pledged their support to agriculture in general and the rice industry in particular.
- The Association is very visible, to the extent members from other farmer organisations are registering with us

- Our National President has been elected Vice President of the recently formed Ghana Federation of Agricultural Producers (GFAP)
- Our Programme Coordinator has been invited to be a member of the Programme Management Team of the Convergence of Sciences - an international programme to support small scale holders through research with support from the Dutch government
- The general public has been appreciative of and acknowledges our work. People call to seek information, others want to know about us , even individual farmers either call at our offices or call to join our association including those from other apex farmers organisations.
- The Media is always quick to attend our activities and give good coverage to them. Our advocacy on rice including the publicity campaign, rice bazaar and the value chain conference were all hyped in both electronic and print media.

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

Generally, policy making environment in Ghana can be described as being conducive in the sense that input into policy formulation is sought from the citizenry, through their leaders or representatives, Civil Society, and other recognised institutions. However, governments often stall and drag their feet in policy formulation and implementation.

5. Grant and report related issues

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

None

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

None