



INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES AGAINST DISASTER RISK IN UPPER WEST REGION, GHANA

Climate change issues are among the leading causes of hunger and affect all dimensions of food security in the Upper West region of Ghana, including access to food, availability and stability of supplies and nutrition. To address this situation, the project aimed to increase the productivity of selected crop commodity value chains (maize, cowpea, soya bean, Sorghum and groundnut) and develop information, education and communication materials for training and capacity-building in disaster management. Emphasis was also placed on Good Agricultural Practices to reduce risk and improve natural resource management.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project focused on engaging and empowering rural smallholders to leverage their existing capacities, through systematic and equitable actions aimed at better management of risks and shocks during crises and the improvement of livelihoods. An approach centred on the farming community was used to increase resilience, in particular through Farmer Field Schools, revolving fund schemes and the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices for Sustainable Land Management, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. Certified seed, technical and financial support were all provided to support the productive activities of farmers, while farmer groups received training on basic business skills and financial management. In addition, all farmer groups involved in the project were linked to the rural banking sector.

IMPACT

The project served to strengthen long-term food security and improve the natural resource base on which food production relies. The farmers in the field school groups are not only members but also shareholders in the revolving fund, which gives them an increased sense of responsibility and engagement for the longevity of their group and their own prosperity, underlining the sustainability of project activities. The involvement of women in the project, who were not engaged in farming in target areas prior to the project, is a significant step towards future gender equality in the agriculture sector in Ghana.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 249 000

Duration

April 2015 – August 2017

Resource Partner

FAO

Partners

Ministry of Food and Agriculture, District Agriculture Units and Departments of Community Development of Wa-West and Sissala-West districts

Beneficiaries

800 household members of 25 Farmer Field School groups within Upper West region (60 percent of them women and at least 15 percent young people between 18 and 35 years old), as well as community members and agricultural extension agents

ACTIVITIES

- 30 demonstration plots and 30 community seed production plots established in Wa-West and Sissala-West districts.
- Of the 800 farmer household beneficiaries, 60 percent of them were women.
- Value chains covered included maize, groundnut, soya bean, sorghum and cowpea.
- Climate smart agriculture practices and technologies demonstrated for uptake in individual farmer plots, including appropriate land preparation/tillage, use of certified seed and use of early-maturing varieties.
- 5 427 kg of certified seed were provided to support the productive activities of farmers.
- Training of trainers in financial management was carried out, benefiting 120 participants.
- 90 percent of farmer groups opened bank accounts. The groups registered 90 percent repayment of in-group loans from members for the 2016/2017 farming season. GHS 78 374 was banked as capital in the revolving funds.
- Lessons learned documented through progress reports, briefs and video coverage.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

TCP/GHA/3502

Project Title

Resilient livelihoods: Improving access to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation good practices and financial services for risk reduction

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