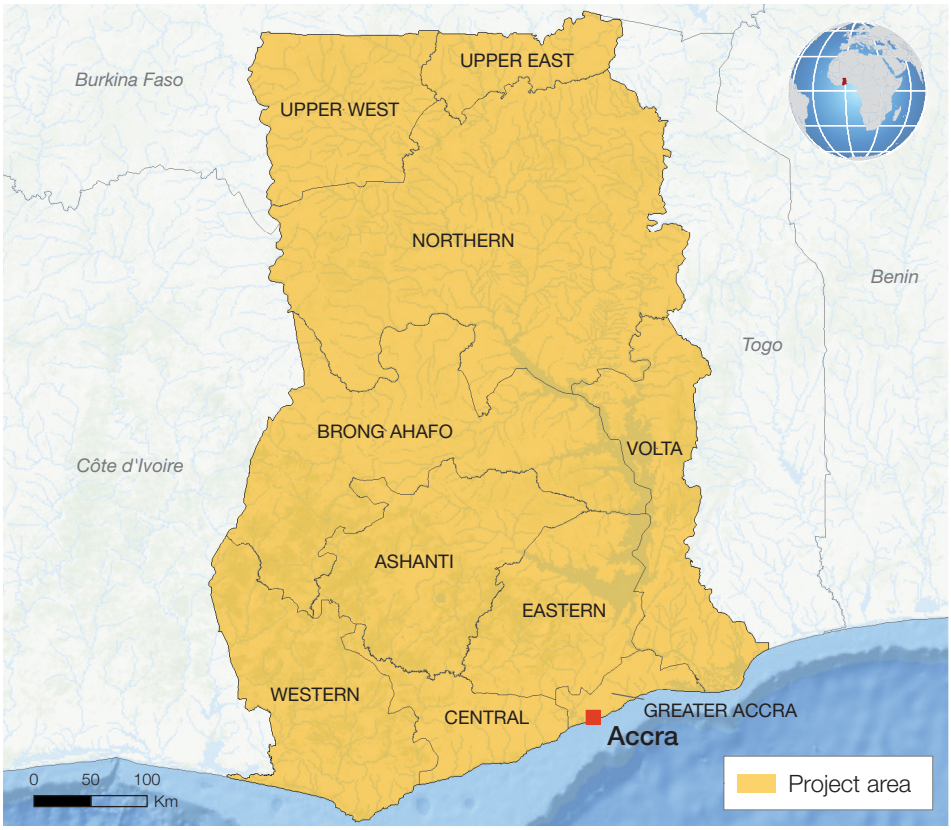
GHANA

Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP)



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ISSUES

Climate change scenarios show that mean temperatures in the Savannah Zones, predominantly in the north, can be expected to increase by approximately 2° C by 2050. Dry season rainfall is expected to increase by 16-20 per cent, with alternating periods of high rainfall being followed by droughts.

Agriculture has driven Ghana's economic growth in recent years and remains the main livelihood of the majority of its population, especially for the rural poor. With approximately 90 per cent of farm holdings of less than 2 hectares, agriculture is still dominated by traditional smallholder farms. These smallholders are being affected by climate-related challenges including:

- water stress for crops as dry spells increase
- degradation and erosion of arable land
- intermittent floods and the resulting damage to critical infrastructure.

The Government approved a climate change policy in 2012, which includes agriculture and food security as one of five policy themes and focus areas, with a particular emphasis on developing climate-resilient agriculture and food systems. Another focus area is disaster preparedness, which prioritizes the building of climate-hardy infrastructure and increasing the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate-related risk.

IFAD
Investing in rural people

Adaptation for **S**mallholder **A**griculture **P**rogramme

ASAP

Launched in 2012, the **Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP)** channels climate and environmental finance to enable smallholder farmers who participate in IFAD projects to increase their resilience. Through ASAP, IFAD is systematically integrating climate resilience into the overall IFAD portfolio.

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Total cost: US$113.0 million

Approved IFAD loan: US$71.6 million

ASAP grant: US$10.0 million

Cofinancing: Participating financial institutions US$17.5 million

Other contributions: Republic of Ghana US$7.6 million; districts US$1.7 million; beneficiaries US$4.6 million

Programme period: 6 years

Executing agency: Ministry of Food and Agriculture

ASAP beneficiaries: 67,000

Programme objectives: Enhance the profitability and climate change resilience of smallholder farmers.

ACTIONS

ASAP funding will support GASIP to mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience of smallholder farms into the business models and value chain interventions of the wider programme. ASAP funding will mainly focus on the northern regions, which have higher levels of exposure to climate risks and lower adaptive capacity.

ASAP investments will focus on:

- Increasing the availability and efficient use of water in smallholder crop and livestock systems to counter growing water stress. This includes ensuring the availability of water for multiple uses while reducing flood-related disaster risks.
- Mainstreaming proven technologies, such as conservation agriculture, irrigation and integrated soil fertility management, on a commercial basis.
- Climate data collection and management through building the capacity of relevant institutions.
- Deepening smallholder understanding of climatic trends through all training opportunities offered by GASIP, increasing sensitization and outreach.
- Promoting climate-resilient cropping in the two areas that GASIP will directly support.

ASAP-supported activities of GASIP will be integrated with the following three components:

- **Value chain development.** ASAP funds will be used to integrate climate change adaptation actions into selected value chains. The focus will be on three main areas:
  - demonstrating and promoting the uptake of commercial conservation agriculture
  - the efficient use of water in irrigation
  - institutional support for climate change resilience.

  Commercially valid adaptive trials of modern conservation agriculture techniques under rain-fed conditions will help to address the effects of increasing dry spells, drought and land degradation. These interventions will be hosted by leading nucleus farmers, strong farmer organizations and specialist farm service providers, who will adjust conservation farming technologies to local conditions. Such technologies could include zero-tillage cropping, soil moisture conservation, and appropriate crop rotations.

  GASIP will also promote improved techniques to increase water-use efficiency within existing irrigation systems, which presently often fail to deliver a reliable water supply and a reduced value for money due to inefficient water delivery and application methods.

  The programme will support institutional capacity-building and greater public awareness on topics related to climate change resilience. Water users' associations and farmer organizations, among other members of the selected value chains, will benefit from activities such as the dissemination of climate change adaptation toolkits, national and international exchange visits, the dissemination of good practices and training. Technical briefs and technical assistance will be made available to support the development of environmental and climate change management plans.

- **Rural value chain infrastructure.** ASAP will support initial investments in water harvesting and management schemes such as livestock watering points, flood recession schemes and small dams.

- **Knowledge management, policy support and coordination.** The programme will engage with partners to develop a web-based geo-referenced environmental and climate information and risk management system, and build the capacity of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on climate change issues. Local adaptation measures will be documented as an evidence base for policymaking.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

The programme will increase the climate resilience of 67,000 smallholders, with a special emphasis on women (50 per cent) and young people. Specifically, by programme end, GASIP will have contributed to:

- 4,000 smallholders with improved water management
- 50 functional water users' associations
- 350 hectares with reliable access to water
- An increase in maize yield from 1 to 3 tons per hectare, and in soya yield from 0.7 to 2 tons per hectare
- 15,000 people trained in climate change resilience actions.

CONTACTS

Ulac Demirag
Country Programme Manager
IFAD Country Office
P.O. Box GP 1423
United Nations House
Ring Road East
Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233 302215690
u.demirag@ifad.org

Naoufel Telahigue
Regional Climate and Environment Specialist
Via Paolo di Dono, 44
Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 5459 2572
n.telahigue@ifad.org

IFAD

International Fund for Agricultural Development
Via Paolo di Dono, 44
00142 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 54591
Fax: +39 06 5043463
E-mail: ifad@ifad.org
www.ifad.org
www.ruralpovertyportal.org

ifad-un.blogspot.com
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September 2014