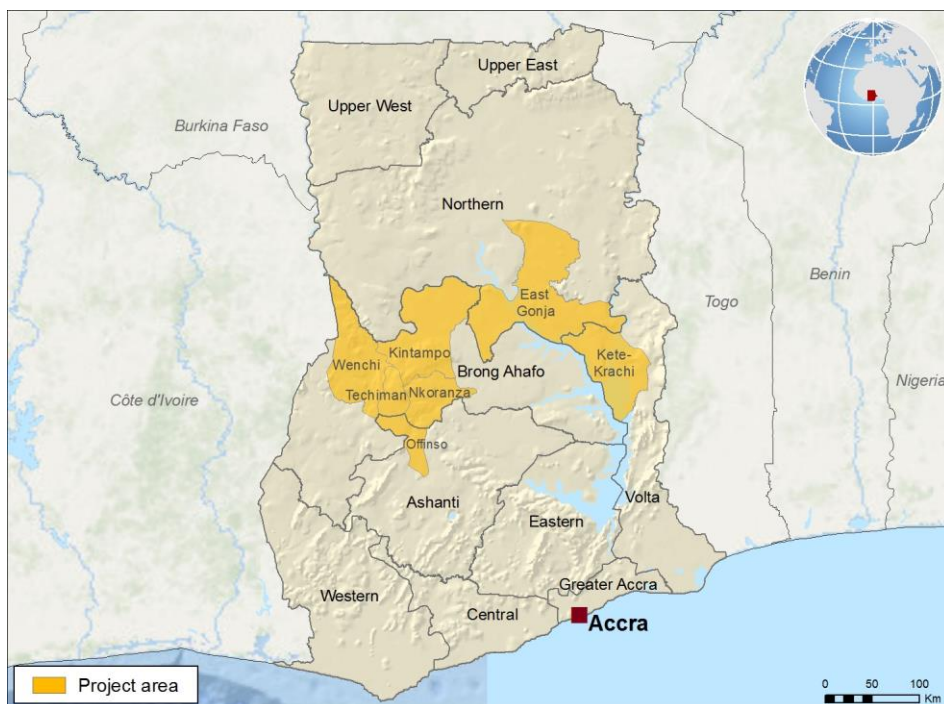


GHANA

Promoting a Value Chain Approach to Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture in Ghana



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

ISSUES

The survival of Ghanaian forests have been seriously threatened by the activities of slash-and-burn agriculture, poachers, timber companies and the mining industry. Between 1990 and 2010, Ghana lost around 25,080 km² of its forest cover, with an average deforestation rate of two per cent per year. In the dryer zones, bushfires and overexploitation have eliminated several forest reserves. According to research, bush burning, a widely applied land management practice by many farmers with the intention to improve soil fertility, has had devastating effects on the environment. In livestock rearing areas, bush burning often destroys livestock's fodder for the dry season.

Recent estimates of the cost of environmental degradation suggest that nearly US\$ 850 million, or an equivalent of ten per cent of GDP is lost annually. The large majority of the estimated costs come from forest depletion in and off reserves. Population growth fuels the demand for more agricultural land and for fuelwood. The reduction of soil fertility in turn forces farmers to expand their cultivated lands and clear forest areas. The poor enforcement of regulations favours unsustainable logging practices and indiscriminate fuelwood extraction. A market price that is lower than the real value of wood further contributes to overexploitation of forestry resources in the country.

In addition, Ghana is highly vulnerable to climate change because it is heavily dependent on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, forestry and hydropower. The agriculture sector, in particular, is highly vulnerable because it is largely rain-fed with a very low level of irrigation. It is expected that mean daily temperatures will increase on average about 2°C by 2050 and 3.9°C by 2100. The predicted increase in rainfall variability, and overall drop in rainfall will increase the likelihood of droughts and reduce agricultural productivity.

Cassava is the most important food crop in Ghana. In Ghana, cassava is mostly grown on small farms, usually intercropped or put in rotation with other crops. The vast majority of cassava processors are affected by poverty because of i) the use of low-yielding planting materials; ii) the significant lack of means to combat soil fertility problems,



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) brings together 183 countries, the private sector, civil society organizations and international institutions to address global environmental problems. The GEF-IFAD partnership promotes win-win solutions to deliver both global environmental benefits as well as significant gains for rural poor people.



PROJECT SUMMARY

Total cost: US\$ 11.5m

Approved IFAD loan:
US\$ 8.5m

GEF: US\$ 2.5m

Government of Ghana:
US\$ 0.3m

Beneficiaries'
Contribution: US\$ 0.2m

Project period:
5 years (2012-2017)

Executing agency:
Ministry of Food and Agriculture
(MOFA)

Beneficiaries: 150 000

Project objective: To reduce climate-induced risks in the cassava value chain to the achievement of food security and income generation for pilot rural communities in Ghana.

pests and diseases; iii) weak access to knowledge and extension; (d) weak access to land, markets and capital; iv) physical isolation - vulnerable communities live in remote areas, with poor road networks preventing adequate marketing opportunities; v) weak grassroots institution.

ACTIONS

The SCCF project focuses on individual/groups of women and youth (mainly involved in cassava processing activities) and men farmers (mainly involved in cassava production activities, processing and marketing) living in fairly remote rural areas. These target beneficiaries are most prone to food insecurity because of the difficult access to markets. The project will comprise three main components:

Awareness raising on climate change and capacity building to address its impacts along cassava chain. This component entails two specific outcomes: increased awareness of small producers, formal/informal organizations of growers, processors, and traders of climate change impacts and adaptation options on agriculture value chains and related livelihoods; and enhanced access to meteorological information to inform agriculture investments and planning.

Support adaptation to climate change in cassava production. This component specifically supports ecosystem-based adaptation in the targeted areas by coupling the local planning exercise with physical investments in soil and water conservation (on a pilot basis) and the promotion of sustainable land management practices (including conservation agriculture) in a number of districts within different agroecological zones where cassava represents a major crop.

Promote innovative adaptation solutions along agriculture value chains. This component puts special focus in the Techiman Municipality, where cassava waste represents a major environmental and health problem. It supports a number of cassava producer groups operating nearby Asueyi to work together in a new, more advanced processing plant fed with renewable energy from cassava waste and saw dust products (one gasifier and one biogas plant), for the production of high quality cassava products. The project is targeting five processing centres around the town of Asueyi.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

Awareness raising on climate change and

capacity building to address its impacts along cassava chain.

- District and community level meetings continue to raise awareness on climate change and adaptation strategies. About 4,300 women and men have been sensitized.
- 20 interactive radio programmes held in 3 regions (Brong Ahafo, Northern Region and Volta Region). The radio programmes have been utilized for general awareness raising on climate change and promotion of farmer field school trials.
- 620 school children sensitized on climate change and trained on tree planting
- Six school nurseries established.
- 11,600 seedling produced and planted (Cassia= 5,600, Teak= 5,000, Mango=1000). The survival rate is about 70%.
- Four woodlots fenced.
- About 1,500 trees planted around 6 school compounds.

Support adaptation to climate change in cassava production.

- 49 Farmer Field Schools are being carried out in the project's seven districts to demonstrate soil fertility and soil water management techniques and also to select drought tolerant cassava varieties.
- 1,885 men and women involved in the Farmer Field School trials.
- 32 trainers trained on soil fertility testing and specific soil amendments recommendation.
- Over 950 women and men trained by the trainers in soil Fertility Testing and Site Specific Fertilizer recommendation.
- 56 soil fertility test kits distributed to District Agricultural Development Units for ongoing testing of beneficiary farmers' fields.

Promote innovative adaptation solutions along agriculture value chains.

- Contracts have been signed for gasification plant, mechanised roasters and borehole with water distribution system.
- One borehole and water distribution system have been installed.
- The beneficiaries have secured land for the installations.

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