



Online Meeting Report on the effect of Climate Change on Agriculture in Ghana held on 10th April, 2020

The Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth-NREG) Platform provides space for learning and sharing among young people working on different environmental actions as well as create opportunity for joint advocacy. The ultimate aim is to promote youth inclusion in the governance of the Natural Resources and Environmental sector.

The Platform is convened by the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND).

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Meeting Moderator:

- ❖ Chibeze Ezekiel

Rapporteurs:

- ❖ Ama Kisiwah Boateng
- ❖ Augustina Quaynor

Resource Person:

Mr. Kingsley Amoako
Climate Change Unit
Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MoFA)

Summary of discussed items

Summary of questions raised by members	Response by Resource Person
<p><u>Agriculture and climate change in Ghana</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which sectors (crop or animal farming) does the adaptation projects cover? • What happens to livestock farming since they affect climate change? • Are the adaptation projects covering the 16 regions or selected regions? • What makes a locality vulnerable? • Has PERD achieved its intended purposes? • What are the legal frameworks, which support these interventions or projects? 	<p>Themes discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing small holder farmers access to improved seeds • Sensitizing the MMDAs Agric departments on how to mainstream climate change into their planning activities • Developing and implementing projects that respond to climate change • Planting for export and rural development initiative to the interventions • The roles of CSOs in promoting the sustainability of projects irrespective of power play. <p>Specific examples</p> <p>MOFA is currently collaborating with the EU to implement projects in the Upper West Region (e.g. The REACH Project-Resilience against climate change)</p> <p>The SLWM project which is implemented jointly by various Agencies with MESTI as the coordinator</p> <p>The GASIP Adaptation Project</p> <p>Training of the staff at the Department of Agriculture in the coastal savanna districts on how to develop bankable projects in order to seek for funding from the GCF</p> <p>Using PERD (planting of tree crops)</p> <p>Operationalize the agriculture component of the National climate change policy</p>

Annex (Detailed Discussions):

Dr Amoako elaborated what the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) is implementing in relation to Climate Change (CC). He categorize them into three sections as follows: and they are as follows:

1. Increasing small holder farmers access to improved seeds
2. Sensitizing the district departments of agriculture on mainstreaming Climate Change into their planning activities and
3. Developing and implementing projects that respond to climate change.

He also made mention of the Planting for Export and Rural Development initiative to the interventions. MoFA collaborates with several agencies and Development Partners to develop and implement Climate Change project across the country. Currently, the European Union is supporting the Ministry to implement the resilience against climate change (REACH) project in northern Ghana focusing on the Upper West region. The Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) project currently being implemented jointly with other agencies under the coordination of MESTI has been ongoing for the past 10 years. We have had several Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs) with FAO some of which produced the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) investment framework for some districts; the Ghana Agriculture Sector Investment Programme (GASIP) project has a Climate Change component and many other such initiatives.

Additionally, the ministry has submitted a joint Green Climate Fund (GCF) project to access funds for implementation of an adaptation project in the north. Departments of Agriculture in the Coastal Savanna Districts have been trained on developing bankable GCF proposals as a way to let them develop their own Climate Change projects.

There was an earlier query about educational program on fertilizer application for farmers. I want to inform you that the district extension officers do continuous training for farmers using several approaches but adoption has been the challenge. It comes with additional cost and additional yield but farmers are always concerned about the cost.

Questions and Answers:

Question: Can you please share more on the 3rd category?

Question: Which sectors of agriculture does the adaptation project cover? Crop or animal or both?

Answer: The adaptation projects have covered mainly the crops sub sector

Questions: Which type of crops please Maize, rice etc.?

Answer: The crops have been selected by the farmers themselves but have been maize and legumes like cowpea, groundnuts and soybeans

Questions: What happens to the livestock then, since the sector will be affected by climate change?

Answer: Some have also indirectly supported livestock. For example under the SLWM project in the north, 5 rangelands of about 30 hectares each have been established for 5 communities to support livestock feeding especially during the dry season.

Question: Please what's the full meaning of GCF?

Answer: The Green Climate Fund

Question: Under the GASIP project, does the intervention seek to address adaptation or mitigation? And if it has mitigation component, what is the level of emission reduction and is there a base rate? Because I learnt from a staff of the crop service division that there is inadequate data?

Answer: The GASIP is looking at mainly adaptation

Question: Is the adaptation projects covering all 16 regions or selected regions? Mainly it starts with the vulnerable regions

Question: What makes a region vulnerable?

Answer: Vulnerability is assessed using 3 elements which are Exposure, Sensitivity and Adaptation capacity. The World Food Programme did a vulnerability study for Ghana in somewhere 2010 or so and that produced a vulnerability map of Ghana, which has served to guide the selection of regions and districts.

Question: How successful has PERD been implemented? Has the intervention achieved its intended purpose? Any challenges encountered in implementing it?

Answer: PERD has just started about a year ago so it's early days yet to do an assessment.

Question: What I will say as immediate challenge is the demand for tree seedlings being more than what the districts can provide.

Answer: PERD is planting of tree crops and you know tree crops will take some time to start fruiting and some additional time to give economic fruiting.

Question: Which policy is being used by MOFA currently since the FASDEP II has ended?

Answer: It's still FASDEP II but review has been initiated

Question: So what is the lifespan of the project Are there plans to include other cash crop in the near future?

Answer: PERD is a government initiative and I believe that it will run as long as the government is in power. Research has been done in this vulnerable area that were selected for the production of crops yielding.

Question: Has research been done to identify vulnerable areas selected for production?

The question is not clear but if I understand you, you want to know what research goes into the selection of crops in the vulnerable communities. Yes, research is an ongoing activity which guides the selection and demonstration of crops in the communities

Question: I will also like to ask if there is ready MARKET for the farmers after production to help them SELL their farm produces after all the circles of production?

Question: Are there not legal backing to some of these interventions to keep running if even there is change in government?

Answer: I believe CSOs have a role to play in promoting the sustainability of this initiative irrespective of which government is in office

Because one major problems farmers face is marketing after they have produce, they don't get proper market to SELL their produces which discourage them a lot.

Answer: Some of the projects promote market linkages which links producers and marketers

Question: Please will the crops seeds be provided to farmers for free or they will buy them since some are lead farmers and are the seeds hybrid?

Question: Mr. Amoako can you please share information on the planting for export and rural development intervention.

Answer: What I know is that districts have done selection of their priority tree crops and MoFA coordinates and support them to acquire appropriate planting materials and some high-level technical support. Each district assembly is to nurse and supply seedlings free of charge to farmers who register to be part of the program

Comment: think that since Agric is a major aspect of our economy, there should be some support to the farmers to help increase production. Another advocacy issue here

Answer: This is true but I think the support is substantial enough. Currently government is absorbing 50% of the cost of seeds and fertilizer. Interestingly enough, some of the very farmers being supported connive with smugglers to cheat the system. I see another advocacy here to curb smuggling

Question: There's a general notion that young people are not veering into Agric as a viable venture. What accounts for this and more importantly how can we encourage more youth participation looking at the importance of Agriculture to our economy?

My personal opinion is that the youth don't have the patience to wait for and develop Agric enterprises. They're always looking for a quicker option to make money. They are also being influenced greatly by what they view on the TV and internet most of which don't tell them the back room stories. The reality is that it requires a consistent and sustained interest and determination for those interested. For me all those are good but when you get your hands to it you will know the truth in it. I will liken it to a young man who wants a sexy girl before he marries. Yes you will find one but will the lady be sexy throughout her life? It calls for heavy investment and so on so the more sexy you want your agric to be, the higher the maintenance cost. The fact is that we should come to terms with the reality and not be deceived by what we watch on TV. Many of our young ladies and gentlemen use the soap operas as their standard and when they get into marriage and it's different, they get disappointed and want to back out. I think it's about time the reality must be told and the young ones must be ready to listen and prepare themselves to face it rather than white wash it and they get disappointed. Sorry if it hurts but the reality is there.

Question: Mr. Amoako in all the interventions outlined and with the GASIP project, does it have a component/avenue for CSO engagement including the youth?

Answer: I am sure it should have avenue for CSO. Since it's a public project, I will suggest you visit them in their office for a discussion and it

Question: I want to understand the opportunities in these interventions for youth. Thank you very much. Please I hope their office is at the ministry or is it located elsewhere?

Comment: Another challenge is access to land by women to engage in farming activities.

Answer: Land tenure is a very complex area I am not well informed to discuss. Reality is that broadly it is in the domain of Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

Question: Please throw more light on how sensitizing the district department of agriculture on mainstreaming CC into their planning activities is done

Answer: We do that with the CSA and Food Security Action Plan document developed by MoFA to operationalize the agriculture component of the National Climate Change Policy