



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
**Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security**



# Organisational Midline Study: Overview Report for Lawra-Jirapa, Ghana (GH-0108)

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CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change,  
Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)

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**About CCAFS reports**

Titles in this series aim to disseminate interim climate change, agriculture and food security research and practices and stimulate feedback from the scientific community.

**About CCAFS**

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## Introduction

The Organisational midline Survey (OMS) is one of three components of CCAFS midlines surveys. The first two were the household baseline and village level surveys were conducted in the CCAFS sites of Ghana. The OMS was conducted in October and November of 2018. The interviews were conducted at 5 organisations that were working or collaborating with farmers and/or the community in Lawra-Jirapa, Ghana. Geographically, the Lawra-Jirapa research site lies in a savannah area, with a tropical continental type of climate. Mean annual temperatures are between 27°C and 36°C. The hottest time of the year is between February and April. The only wet season is between April and October, but rainfall is highly variable.

Agriculture is the main economic activity, and the farming system is primarily small-scale mixed crop and livestock. Crops include: yam, cassava, groundnut, sorghum, cowpea, soybean, and maize. Livestock include: sheep, goats, pigs and guinea fowl. The area faces the challenges of land degradation, high population pressure on natural resources, high rural poverty levels and highly variable climatic conditions.

CCAFS is undertook an organisational-level midline studies in sites where the baselines were conducted. This was to supplement the quantitative household midline surveys and the qualitative village midline studies at the same locations.

The household and village midlines provide information on the recipient-side of services and information. Without considering the external organisations that provide services/information to communities, the picture of current conditions remains incomplete. The organisational midline study (OMS) aims to provide information about the provision of services and agricultural/climatic information by organisations operating in the locality.

The three components combined will provide information at each site to inform the planning of CCAFS interventions and to monitor change over time.

To ensure that results can be compared across regions as well as with the baseline, major emphasis is placed on developing a standardized approach, ensuring consistency and quality of implementation across sites.

The objectives of the organisational midline study (OMS) were to:

- Monitor changes in objectives, priorities and activities of locally relevant organisations since the baseline study was conducted.

- Understand the provision, and gauge changes since the baseline study, of information/services at the local level that informs farmers' decision making about their livelihood strategies in response to climate change.

## Organisations interviewed

Prior to this organisational study, CCAFS conducted a participatory village study within the Lawra-Jirapa site. Participants of the village study were asked to create an institutional landscape of their community by listing the most important organisations that were active in the area and then providing information on how they were involved in the community. Specifically, the participants were asked which organisations were involved in food security activities, food crisis situations, and natural resource management work. CCAFS then took this list of organisations and provided it to the interviewers conducting the Organisational Midline Survey. The interviewers were given leeway to eliminate an organisations/they believed was not relevant and to add any organisations that may have been left out of the village study discussions.

The table below is a list of organisations interviewed with a brief description of their main area of activities.

**Table 1. List of organisations interviewed with a brief description of their activities.**

| Organisation                            | Main areas of activity   |
|---|--|
| MoFA (Ministry of Food and Agriculture) | This local government organisation provides extension services in agriculture. Its support relates to crops, livestock, and land and water management.   |
| Forestry Commission                     | The Forestry Commission of Ghana is responsible for the regulation of utilization of forest and wildlife resources, the conservation and management of those resources and the coordination of policies related to them. |
| Acdep                                   | Capacity building on crops, livestock, aquaculture, VSLA, and dam protection.  |
| Esoko                                   | Mobile phone-based delivery of weather and agronomic information.  |
| SADA                                    | Government afforestation project.  |

# Summary of activities

## Natural resource management

### Ministry of Food and Agriculture

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) is a major player in the agricultural development in Ghana in various sectors including natural resource management as follows:

- MoFA encourages agroforestry, including cashew and mango plantations.
- MoFA promotes bushfire control and discourages indiscriminate tree cutting.
- MoFA in collaboration with CARD promotes the increased adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, organises for farmers and supports compost preparation and application.
- MoFA also promotes compost making, as well as the use of farm yard manure and housing livestock to obtain manure.
- MoFA further provides information about farm practices such as ridging, stone lining, bonding and tie ridging. Management of water resources is a current objective of the MoFA.
- MoFA is involved in the promotion of energy saving stoves and alternative energy resources.
- Farmers adopting to appropriate farming practices to increasing food crops.
- Farmers to manage farm land by practicing conservation agriculture.

### Forestry Commission and its activities on natural resource management

- Management and enhancement of the permanent forest estate.
- Management of forest resources off-reserve.
- Promotion of public awareness and involvement in forest resource conservation.
- Development of effective capability sustainable resource development.
- Expansion of the nation's forests cover through forestation.

### ACDEP

ACDEP through the Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Transformation (RESULTS) project, undertook various activities aimed at protecting the natural resources for sustainable use by communities in the Lawra-Jirapa districts. These activities include:

- Creating awareness of bushfires and its implication on agriculture
- Training of farmers on the appropriate use of agrochemicals
- Training of farmers on small ruminant's production aimed generating manure to improve the soil for crop production.



- Undertook aquaculture in the two districts. This activity was to encourage communities' members avoid depleting fish resources in the communities and also to ensure sustainable utilization of water resources.

**Table 2. Summary of main activities of organizations working on NRM.**

| <b>Organization Name</b> | <b>Main Activities</b>   | <b>Type of Natural Resources</b>                                      |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| MoFA                     | Training of farmers GAPs, afforestation and good environmental management  | Water (fishery), forestry, farmland (soil resources)                  |
| Forestry commission      | Education on wildlife management, bushfires prevention, indiscriminate cutting of trees  | Forest products(wildlife, water bodies), forest reserves, farmlands   |
| ACEDP                    | Training of farmers on environmental management (such as bushfire prevention and inappropriate use of agrochemicals and its effects on the user) | Natural environment such as farmland, water bodies, fishery resources |
| SADA                     | Planted a teak plantation in the local area  | Forestry  |

## **Food security**

For the past years MoFA has embarked on various Food Security programmes in collaboration with other institutions and NGOs in the Northern Ghana.

The current Block Farm Programme implemented by MoFA involves all the three regions in Northern Ghana.

By this programme improved seeds, fertilizer, weedicide and tractor services are provided to farmers who pay the total amount involved in kind after harvesting. There are organized groups who have their farms in one location (block).

The Programme was initiated by the Government to address three main objectives. The objectives include:

- Support farmers to increase production to ensure food security
- Generate employment in rural communities especially among the youth.
- Increase incomes of small farm households.

The target crops for the programme were Rice, Maize and Soybean and sorghum which are the main staples for most Ghanaians and hence increase in the production of these crops offers a sure way of addressing food security issues.

The above programme has been repackaged and named **Planting for Food and Jobs** by the current administration with aim ensuring food availability, access and job creation.

### **ACDEP**

Funded by Canadian Feed the Children (CFTC), the Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Transformation (RESULT) Project implemented by ACDEP has been in Northern Ghana for 6 years (2012-2018).

The ultimate outcome of the result project was to enhance food security and resilience for poor male and female smallholder farmers and their households in northern Ghana.

The Project addresses the four basic elements of food security by increasing food availability, access, utilization and stability (i.e. resilience). It is based on proven approaches developed by CFTC and ACDEP, integrating food security and sustainable livelihoods interventions that increase adaptation to climate change and reduce vulnerability to disasters.

The RESULT project is in full alignment with CFTC Food Security Strategy, Ghana Country Programming Framework, and CIDA's Policy for Environmental Sustainability and Gender Equality Policy.

### **The Forestry Commission on Food Security**

The Forestry Commission of Ghana has adopted forest plantations as a strategy to ensure landscape restoration, enhance environmental quality and develop a sustainable resource base to satisfy future timber demands.

One of the reforestation programmes is the Modified Taungya System (MTS); a co-management system between the Forestry Commission and smallholder farmers that allows intercropping of timber and food crops. It entitles farmers to 100% of the food produce and a 40% share in the timber revenues in return for their contribution to tree planting, maintenance and protection. The MTS contributes to alleviating the scarcity of farming land and improving households' livelihoods, creating a legal source of future timber supply and also its contribution to creating climate-smart landscapes.

**Table 3. Summary main activities of organizations working on food security.**

| <b>Organization name</b> | <b>Availability</b>  | <b>Access</b>  | <b>Utilisation</b>   |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| MoFA                     | Training farmers on good agronomic practices to increase food production through extension service delivery. | Provides market information on food prices at various markets across the region. | Gender desk of MoFA is specialist in providing training services women on various farm products utilization. for example combining soybean with different food to enhance nutrition. |
| ACDEP                    | Support farmers with appropriate inputs, extension services, and sustainable and appropriate technologies.   | Provides market information on food prices at various location in the districts. | Provides training on maize and soybean utilization to women aimed at improving household nutrition.  |
| Forestry                 | Allows intercropping of food crops with trees for timber production.   | Farmers received 40% share of timber revenues.                                   | N/A  |

## **Activities' relationship to climate change variability and extreme events**

In recent times parts of the country have experienced a highly variable and unpredictable climate.

Currently floods and droughts can occur in the same area within months. This poses a serious threat to food productivity in the Northern part of Ghana where production is mainly rain fed

The northern Ghana has experienced this phenomenon which has serious implication for food security and malnutrition.

Other possible impact of the climate change on food security in the region will decrease yield due to loss of land, uncertainty about what and when to plant, increase in the number of people at risk from hunger, decreased fish stock due to increasing temperatures and fall of net revenues from crops.

Organizations such as MoFA, ACDEP, Forestry and others are implementing measures that would reduce the impact of climate variability on food availability, access and utilization. Extreme climate events are common in some parts of CCAFS site (Lawra district) in Ghana. Relief organizations implement actions that minimize the impact of such events through the provision of food items, housing materials, clothing etc.

## **Implications for CCAFS**

From the viewpoint of CCAFS fundamental objective of providing support through various interventions to rural farming households to access food all year round has been

necessitated by climate variability and extreme events in its sites in Ghana. In the face of these natural climate variability and extreme events, there is need for CCAFS to commit more resources that specially seek to address food availability, access and utilization. It would require CCAFS to undertake Participatory Action Research that would ensure sustainable farming practices and environmental management. CCAFS would have to consider collaborating with grassroots organizations implementing climate change related programmes. Specific intervention CCAFS could provide is human resource development of staff of these organizations in specialize fields of climate change. Whiles these interventions could have cost implication for CCAFS, much better results could be achieved.

## **Conclusions and recommendations for major opportunities**

This organisational midline was conducted in the same village/locality that was part of the village midline study. The survey targeted at approximately 10 locally relevant organisations. The list of organisations was provided to the CCAFS Organisational Midline Study coordination team. These were organisations identified during the village level study. It includes: Organisations that were identified in the village midline were important providers of services and information (excluding purely community-based local organisations).

Results from the study indicate that organizations such as the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Adventist Church Development Association programme (ACDEP) and Forestry commission undertook various activities on natural resource management, food security (with emphasis on availability, access and utilization).

The relationship between the activities of these organizations and climate change variability and extreme events revealed that most of the core activities of these organizations are more geared towards minimizing the impacts of climate change on household food security and sustainable environmental management. These activities incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation aspects in order for farmers to cope with the prevailing increase in the frequency and intensity droughts and floods.

The study could recommend the following; that CCAFS could collaborate with grassroots organizations implementing climate change related programmes for effective and efficient resource management. Specific intervention CCAFS could look at human resource development of staff of these organizations in specialize fields of climate change.

## Annex

### The list of the interviewees

| Name of interviewee | Organization |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Mathew              | MoFA         |
| Fidelis             | ACDEP        |
| Constantine         | ACDEP        |
| Thomas              | MoFA         |
| Basilide            | Forestry     |