



GHANA



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GHANA STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM (GSSP)

Ghana is at a crossroads in its economic development. Still heavily reliant on agriculture and natural resources, Ghana's future will be shaped by the country's agricultural and rural development strategies.

Since 2010, when the country reached lower-middle-income status, Ghana's economic performance has been highly variable. Growth was rapid from 2011 to 2013—largely due to strong performance in the oil and gas sector—as the economy expanded by more than 10 percent annually, but slumped to 3.8 percent from 2014 to 2016. In 2017, growth picked up to 6.3 percent and is expected to be among the highest in Africa in 2018, at a projected 8.3 percent.¹ The agriculture and natural resource sectors account for 41.5 percent of employment and nearly a third of gross domestic product (GDP). Labor is moving out of agriculture, but predominantly into low-productivity services sectors rather than into high-productivity manufacturing. Average agricultural growth hovered around 5 percent from 2014 to 2017. To increase productivity and boost economic growth, Ghana must continue to invest in agriculture and, to promote transformation, should facilitate the development of agro-industries to diversify agriculture. Ghana's inconsistent growth performance warrants a fresh look at rigorous research to inform the country's development strategy.

The Ghana Strategy Support Program (GSSP), implemented by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) mission in Ghana, was launched in 2005 and is currently in its third phase (2014-2018). As an implementing partner of the US government's Feed the Future (FtF) strategy in Ghana, the

overall objective of IFPRI/GSSP is to conduct research and advise on strategic policy options to support agricultural growth, rural development, and economic transformation in Ghana. GSSP works to promote evidence-based policy making by:

- » addressing specific knowledge gaps concerning agricultural and rural development strategy implementation;
- » improving the data and knowledge base for applied policy analysis; and
- » strengthening national capacity for applied policy research.

While GSSP research is broadly organized around the strategic policy areas listed below, our annual work plans evolve over time and are tailored toward addressing information needs relevant to the current agricultural policy arena in Ghana.

STRATEGIC POLICY RESEARCH AREAS

Competitiveness of agriculture and agro-processing: We investigate effective strategies to improve the technologies used by farmers and food processors and identify investments and policies needed to make crop farming, livestock production, and agro-processing more competitive.

Governance, public expenditure, and development strategies: We assess the economywide returns to alternative development spending strategies, and the optimal composition of agricultural expenditure across the main expenditure items, such as extension services, research and development, irrigation, rural infrastructure, and input subsidies. We also identify ways to improve planning and service delivery by giving greater autonomy to regional and district level officials in both budgeting and implementation processes.

Rural-urban linkages and agri-food system transformation: We examine wage dynamics and labor mobility between agriculture and rural nonfarm activities and among various formal and informal nonagricultural sectors to better understand how ongoing structural transformation affects Ghana's agricultural sector. We also take a food systems approach to assess the varied nutrition challenges Ghana faces and examine the processes and activities along the value chain that have implications for people's diets.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

GSSP closely collaborates with the Agricultural Sector Working Group (ASWG) and other research and policy-making partners to identify program priorities and guide its implementation. The program also builds on existing work and capacities in Ghana by collaborating with institutions and individuals in research, the private sector, civil society, and government. Partners include the Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research (ISSER); several institutes of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS); the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), specifically its Statistics, Research and Information Directorate (SRID) and Policy Planning and Budgeting Directorate (PPBD); the International Water Management Institute (IWMI); Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA); and other USAID projects such as the Agriculture Policy Support Project (APSP) and the Agricultural Technology Transfer (ATT) Project.

¹ African Development Bank, *African Economic Outlook 2018* (Abidjan: 2018); Ghana Statistical Service, *2016 Annual Gross Domestic Product* (Accra: 2017); World Bank, *Global Economic Prospects, January 2018: Broad-Based upturn, but for How Long?* (Washington, DC: 2018).

For more information, visit gssp.ifpri.info.

Photo: Aubrey Wade/Panos

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A world free of hunger and malnutrition

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