

**ARF WOTRO TREEFARM PROJECT**  
**GHANA COUNTRY WORKSHOP-ACCRA**  
**APPROACHES TO REACH ULTIMATE TARGET GROUPS**



**PROJECT CONSORTIUM**  
**12 DECEMBER 2016**

**Project Summary of 3-year ARF –WOTRO Treefarm Project**

- **Overall objective:** To enhance food and income security of farmers in the modified taungya system (MTS) and tree farmers in off-reserve areas after canopy closure.
- **Specific objective:** To generate knowledge and build capacity that enables the integration and production of shade-tolerant non-timber forest products (NTFPs) (black pepper, grains of paradise and honey) in on- and off-reserve tree farms and their successful processing and marketing.

**Sub-objectives:**

1. To take stock of the current status of NTFPs in MTS/tree farms and problems that farmers encounter to sustainably manage, harvest and market them.
2. To improve yields of NTFPs in the MTS through participatory seedling production and on-farm trials.
3. To explore the potential of integrating NTFPs in off-reserve tree farms.
4. To examine and improve market opportunities/constraints and profitability.
5. To enhance entrepreneurial skills, farmer groups, and group enterprises.
6. To enhance collaborative learning processes on sustainable NTFP production and marketing, involving farmers, policymakers

**Linkages to current national policies and strategies**

**2012 Forest and Wildlife Policy Objective 2**

- to promote the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded landscapes through forest plantation development, enrichment planting, and community forestry and
- increase government commitment to degraded landscape restoration through massive plantation development schemes
  - Support increased investments in research development training and capacity building
  - Support the creation of employment opportunities and sustainable livelihoods in rural communities through forest plantations
  - Promote the adoption farm forestry practices which include managing trees on farm , farm boundary and agro forestry practices

**Strategic Direction 1.4**  
 Sustainably manage and develop commercial wood fuel supplies and other NTFs on both on and off reserve

- Five provisions
  - Promote research and development programmes for commercially viable NTFPs

**Ghana National Plantation Strategy (2016 -2040)**

**Strategic Objective 1: Establishment and management of planted forests**

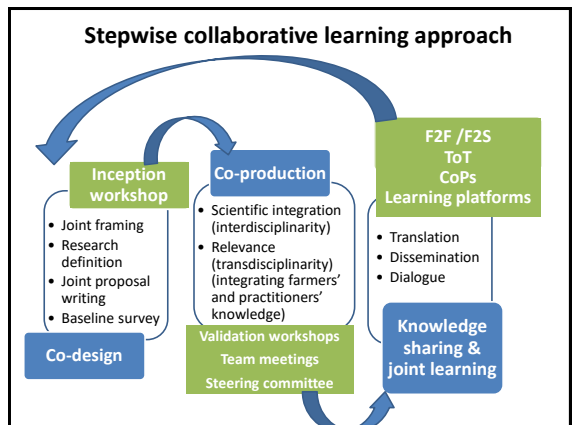
- Promote the development of NTFPs (i.e. spices, essential oils, apiculture etc.) within forest plantations to provide additional short- and medium term income

**Strategic Objective 2: To promote large scale and small holder forest plantation investments**

**Strategic Objective 3: To create employment opportunities and sustainable livelihoods in rural communities through forest plantation development**

Promote growing of shade-loving non-timber forest products (NTFPs) under plantations after canopy closure; Bee-keeping and cultivation of food crops under taungya schemes as well as timber harvesting and processing.

**Strategic Objective 4: To increase investments in research and development, extension, training and capacity building for forest plantation development and timber utilization**



### Approaches adopted to reach target groups

- Inception workshop for all relevant stakeholders (national , regional & district )
- Project infosheet disseminated, emphasising the need to enhance income opportunities from the modified taungya system (MTS) and tree farms after canopy closure.
- Survey among 147 MTS and off-reserve tree farmers in 3 forest districts revealed importance of food crops in the MTS and need to find profitable markets for NTFPs.
- Inventories in tree farms revealed occurrence of un-planted NTFPs and medium to high survival rates of planted NTFPs under both open and closed un-burnt canopies, but no NTFPs in plots affected by wildfires.
- MSc students affiliated to Ghanaian partner institutions recruited to enhance capacity building and experimental plots set up with communities .
- Writeshop for staff and MSc students affiliated to consortium partners.
- Farmer to farmer visit as a form of collaborative learning and knowledge transfer

### Farmer to farmer visits/study tour as a knowledge transfer tool

- Consortium partners - Ministry of Food and Agriculture organized a study tour 25 farmers and some consortium members to black pepper fields and honey production sites



Discussions and knowledge shared on

- Establishment
- Management
- Harvesting
- Processing and
- Marketing of black pepper at Boama Dumase in 16 year old farm the Ashanti Region



- Construction of bee hives
- Positioning of the hives
- Baiting
- Honey production and marketing demonstrated and discussed as Achiasé



### Impact of farmer to farmer/study tour and Lessons learnt-Black pepper cultivation

#### Establishment:

- best stakes and preferred height, planting and pruning should be in rainy season

#### Management

- Non use of weedicides and cutting of nodes early

#### Harvesting

- Signs of fruit maturity and strategies to ensure harvesting all year round

#### Processing and marketing

- Best ways of processing washing, sieving , splashing of boiling water and drying
- Market linkage and network established

### Impact of farmer to farmer/study tour and lessons learnt-honey production

#### Construction

- Different types wooden and metallic boxes

#### Positioning of the hives

- Hives should be positioned where sunrise can be felt by the bees as they use the sunrise to rise up and start working.

#### Baiting

- Several ways of attracting the bees into the hive
- Use of wax and other healthy simple baits

## Cont.

### Honey production

- expected in 6 to 7 months after bees occupy the hive
- The queen bee can reproduce about 200-500 thousand bees within a year
  - rate of production depends on the amount of food available to the bees including cocoa, banana, oranges etc.
- 6-10 bottles can be harvested in the first year
- Large quantities can be harvested in February to March the next year.
- Coloured attires and perfumes should be avoided when harvesting.

### Marketing

- Net works still being developed . Student thesis to delve more into this

## Conclusion /the way forward

- Farmer to farmer /study tour is a useful knowledge transfer tool
- Farmers motivated and hopeful that their livelihood and incomes based on NTFPs can be sustained
- Capacity of farmers and consortium member built in black pepper and honey production
- Potential for mobilization into cooperatives initiated
- Progress made towards achievement of sub objective six
- Website for project under development - [www.fcghana.org](http://www.fcghana.org)

## Consortium members

- **Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) of the Ghana Forestry Commission**
  - Mr Edward Obiaw, Project Coordinator
  - Mrs Valerie Fumey-Nassah, Project Officer
  - Mr Hamza Mohammed, Accountant
- **University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands**
  - Dr Mirjam A.F. Ros-Tonen, Associate Professor, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research
- **University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), Sunyani, Ghana**
  - Dr Mercy Derkyi, Lecturer Dept. of Forest Science, Acting HeadCentre for Climate Change and Gender Studies
  - Dr Simon Abugre, Lecturer Dept. of Forest Science
  - Dr William Quarmin, Lecturer Dept. of Forest Science

## Partners

- **Rural Development Youth Association (RUDEYA)**
  - Mr Kofi Kyeremateng, Director
  - Dr Harris Andoh, Development Practitioner
- **Project partners**
- **Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA)**
  - Mrs Beatrice Asante Mante, Director Agric
  - Mr Peter Kwame Amoako, Extension Officer
- **Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products (ASNAPP)**
  - Mr Larry Amekuse, Director



Thank you Very much