

Initial Project Results Treefarms project:

Objective	Result
<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A baseline survey among 147 MTS and off-reserve tree farmers revealed (i) the importance of food crops in the MTS, (ii) the need to find profitable markets for NTFPs, (iii) gender-specific preferences for different tree/food-crop combinations, (iv) the need to strengthen MTS and NTFP groups/networks, and (v) the importance of introducing shade-tolerant NTFPs and food crops for improving food and income security. • Inventories revealed occurrence of naturally occurring NTFPs and medium to high survival rates of planted NTFPs under open and closed un-burnt canopies, but no NTFPs in plots affected by wildfires.
<p>2. To improve yields of NTFPs in the MTS through participatory seedling production and on-farm trials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three nurseries were established and provided with equipment and 1500 poly bags. Site selection was done together with local nursery attendants. • Twelve demonstration plots have been established in three communities for collaborative learning and as study sites for the sub-projects. Six plots have been planted with 666 grains of paradise seedlings (<i>Aframomum melegueta</i>); two are for biodiversity observation; four have been cleared and are yet to be pegged with <i>Gliricidea</i> stakes for black pepper. • Twelve bee-hives have been distributed to three communities; one community is yet to receive them.
<p>3. To explore the barriers and potential of integrating NTFPs in off-reserve tree farms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The baseline survey and inventories revealed that (i) NTFPs from off-reserve tree farms are more often for trade than for food, (ii) MTS farmers gain more from NTFPs in their off-reserve plots than non-MTS farmers (other products), and (iii) the previous NTFP plots suffered considerably from wildfire.
<p>4. To examine and improve the economic feasibility of NTFPs from MTS/tree farms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping study reveals that volumes are too low for export market. • Cross-farm visits revealed importance of local markets. • Linkages to (Nigerian) buyers established

<p>5. To enhance entrepreneurial skills, farmer groups, and group enterprises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange visit for 22 farmers to a black pepper farm at Boamah Dumasi Community and to beekeeping farmers in the community of Achiase resulted in exchange of knowledge and experiences. • On-the-job training has been provided in the establishment of nurseries and experimental plots.
<p>6. To enhance collaborative learning processes on sustainable NTFP production and marketing involving farmers, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project infosheet explains project rationale, activities realized until the inception workshop and partners involved. • Stakeholders at inception workshop made suggestions for project implementation. • Consortium partners' participation in the final discussions of Ghana's plantation development strategy influenced the importance given to the MTS and the possibility of integrating non-timber forest products. • Consortium and key partners jointly developed the theory of change, stakeholder mapping and research uptake strategy which was validated in a wider community of practice (40-50 participants); students presented their research plans and received feedback at the COP. • The project's stand on knowledge co-creation was presented to other ARF consortia in Benin, distinguishing between co-design, co-production and dissemination (knowledge sharing and joint learning). • During the Accra workshop linkages were established with other ARF projects (notably the mango project) and lessons shared regarding knowledge co-production. Notably the concept of cross-farm visits was considered a good approach to get information to the targeted farmers.
<p>7. To build capacity of MSc students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven MSc students affiliated to Ghanaian partner institutions (one financed by the Forestry Commission) have been recruited to enhance capacity building for sustainable results. Students have completed coursework (a.o. research methods) and presented proposals to supervisors, consortium members and the community of practice. Field work ongoing • Writeshop for staff and MSc students affiliated to consortium partners resulted in increased capacity in formulating a problem statement and research objectives, and on concise and accessible writing.