

# GHANA AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (USAID AGNRM)

Duration: May 2016 – May 2021

The Government of Ghana (GoG) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have made tremendous progress in addressing food insecurity in northern Ghana. Yet as the natural resources across the north are stressed by climate change, agricultural pressures and increasing demands for water, food and energy, further advances in food security require a safeguarding of the natural resource base.

## Sustainable Economic Development

The USAID Feed the Future Ghana Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Project (USAID AgNRM) is a five-year program that serves as the main vehicle within the USAID/Ghana FTF strategy to address issues of environment and natural resource management in northern Ghana. USAID AgNRM seeks to provide a scalable, integrated landscapes approach to support sustainable economic development and rural livelihoods, increase nutrition and climate change adaptation, and strengthen northern Ghana's natural resources.



*Shea Nuts housed in a storage facility within an existing CREMA bordering Mole National Park. Photo credit: Jennifer Norfolk/Winrock International*

Under USAID AgNRM, Winrock International and its sub-grantees — TechnoServe, Nature Conservation Research Centre, and Center for Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies — will work to meet program objectives using an integrated landscapes approach that aligns development with conservation and responds to the interdependencies of ecosystems, livelihoods and health, building on private sector partnerships.

## Approach and Anticipated Outcomes

USAID AgNRM will achieve the project goal of poverty reduction through sustainable increases in wealth and nutrition from natural and non-traditional agriculture products by addressing environmental, agricultural, governance, and natural resource management challenges. The USAID AgNRM project interventions are expected to result in transformative change: adoption of improved practices, technologies, and behaviors; better functioning value chains (including shea and other natural products) and governance structures; more equitable access to land and resources; and increased capacity of organizations to improve natural resource management, address drivers of environmental degradation, and enhance rural livelihoods. USAID AgNRM project activities will be implemented under four project outcomes:

- 1) Increased Incomes from Natural Resource Products;
- 2) Improved Food and Nutritional Security;
- 3) Increased Farmer and Community Security/Access to Land and Natural Resources; and
- 4) Strengthened Environmental Stewardship.

Reporting will focus on progress made toward achieving results under these four interrelated outcomes.

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## Ghana's Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs)

USAID AgNRM's geographic targeting is driven by the successful Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) model promoted by the Wildlife Division of the Government of Ghana's (GoG) Forestry Commission, for sustainable resource management in Ghana. The CREMA approach addresses landscape-level protected area management and biodiversity conservation while simultaneously catalyzing sustainable livelihoods in natural resource products. The project will implement activities across the four project outcomes in eight target CREMAs located in three ecological corridors in northern Ghana.

### Initial Six Selected CREMAs

#### Black Volta River Basin –

##### *Upper West Region*

- Zukpiri CREMA
- Wechiau CREMA
- Dorimon site

#### Western Biodiversity Corridor – *Northern Region*

- Moaduri-Wuntaluri-Kumwusasi CREMA

##### *Upper East Region*

- Balsa-Yening CREMA
- Wuru-Kayoro CREMA

An initial assessment identified the first six of eight target CREMA sites. These sites range in CREMA development from current conception stage to inception phase to fully certified management units. All target CREMAs provide opportunities for the USAID AgNRM activities under all four project components. The project is considering additional sites within the Eastern Biodiversity Corridor/Red Volta Basin.

The project will work to strengthen key tree crop value chains, including shea, using innovations in climate-smart agriculture as well as increase access to water for both household and productive uses using Winrock's Multiple Use Water Services (MUS) approach.

Strategic activities include: strengthen shea, moringa, dawadawa, and tamarind value chains; organize/strengthen collector groups; leverage private sector investment for natural resource products (NRPs); promote conservation agriculture, home gardens, and agroforestry alongside traditional methods; improve water access to households; form and strengthen village savings and loan associations; increase access to nutritious foods and training on nutrition; increase understanding of land and water access rights; increase access for women to land and productive resources; facilitate demarcation of

boundaries and develop land use plans; support dispute mediation and promote land use procedures; strengthen CREMAs capacity to implement community-based natural resource management (CBNRM); facilitate transboundary solutions via workshops and exchanges; convene stakeholders and conduct ecosystem services valuation; and develop baseline of carbon stocks and link to carbon markets.

Overall, the USAID AgNRM model applies an integrated, landscape approach that aligns development and conservation and responds to the interdependencies of ecosystems and livelihoods. Landscape-level NRM requires an understanding of ecosystem services and values. Ecosystem services benefit the population broadly, from supply of adequate clean water to pollination services for agriculture and supply of new income sources. An assessment of ecosystem services and values in the three corridors in the FtF Zone of Influence (ZOI) will provide the evidence base for a public awareness campaign to increase knowledge and appreciation of ecosystem service values. The project will assess the available supply of ecosystem services within the region, as well as the beneficiaries of this supply. Economic analysis will pair a financial value to the assessed ecosystem services.

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