



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

USAID AgNRM NEWSLETTER

USAID AgNRM ENHANCES WOMEN ACCESS AND RIGHTS TO LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The USAID-funded Feed the Future Ghana Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (AgNRM) project, works to improve women's access to land and natural resources resulting in improved livelihoods. In 2017, AgNRM focused on strengthening women's access and rights to land by working closely with traditional authorities to obtain their support and involve them in the process. AgNRM's training on negotiation skills strengthened the capacity of the women beneficiaries to negotiate for more secure access to land. AgNRM is implementing interventions that have the potential to change the narrative of women and vulnerable group's lack of secure access and use rights in northern Ghana. The team trained Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) executives and women leaders on conflict analysis and resolution and designed an early warning and early response system for natural resource-based conflicts. These interventions focus on building robust community structures to respond to conflicts and maintain peace. In 2017, AgNRM completed land demarcations in the Zukpiri, Dorimon, Builsa

AgNRM helped hundreds of community members demarcate 355 parcels of land covering 420.74 acres (170.25 hectares), including home gardens, and agricultural fields.

Yening and Moaduri Wuntaluri Kuwesasi (MWK) CREMAs. AgNRM's land demarcation activity brings more than 200 women settlers one step closer to obtaining secured tenure rights over parcels they farm. AgNRM intends to formalize the negotiated agreements by having all relevant parties sign written documents. AgNRM achieved the quick uptake of negotiating secure land use agreements by working closely with traditional authorities and interweaving local practices with Ghana's current laws and policies. Another approach AgNRM is using is to identify "Male Allies of Women's Rights." The selected men demonstrate leadership in supporting women's rights in the CREMA communities. Several of these men have given their own land to women for productive purposes.

ALSO IN THIS EDITION...

- AgNRM strengthens sustainable natural resource management as local communities embrace improved governance structures
- Toward a more secure future – AgNRM empowers beneficiaries to generate more income from natural resource products
- Farmers adopt improved technologies and a new crop to improve household nutrition and resilience

SUCCESS STORY – Land tenure security for women inspires sustainable gardening practices



Women map their community resources during AgNRM's Multiple Use Water Services Training

USAID AgNRM Bi-Annual Newsletter #1 (December 2017)

AgNRM STRENGTHENS SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AS LOCAL COMMUNITIES EMBRACE IMPROVED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES



Naa Suhimwinnye Danaah Gori, Paramount Chief and Patron of the Dorimon Paramouncy CREMA. AgNRM is supporting the creation of a new CREMA in Dorimon

Efforts by local communities to successfully manage their natural resources are often affected by lack of effective decision-making structures and regulations that guide their day-to-day activities. To help address this challenge, AgNRM is supporting local communities to establish three new and strengthen five existing Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA). Using Ghana's Wildlife Division's CREMA model, AgNRM is empowering communities to effectively manage their natural resource base. AgNRM is reinforcing the roles and responsibilities of CREMA management structures, encouraging more female participation in decision-making. The AgNRM project has been working with 32 communities and traditional leaders in the Dorimon Paramouncy to form a new CREMA. The Dorimon CREMA is part of the home range of the second largest hippo population in Ghana and a significant population of shea trees.

Recognizing the value of these natural resources, traditional leaders and community members had begun their own conservation efforts and climate-friendly activities even before the project's arrival. The Dorimon communities have since elected and inaugurated a CREMA Executive Committee, the highest-level governance and decision-making authority. In the SKGK and Builsa Yening CREMAs, representatives and leaders from 18 CREMA Management Committees, worked with AgNRM to document and update their membership and to sensitize members on their respective responsibilities. The Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary CREMA made significant progress in strengthening its organization by revising and drafting its constitution and by-laws.

THE CREMA CONCEPT AT A GLANCE

AgNRM's geographic targeting is driven by the successful Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) model promoted by the Wildlife Division (WD) for sustainable resource management in Ghana.

A CREMA is a geographically defined area that includes one or more communities that have agreed to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner that prioritizes biodiversity conservation. It is a structure that enables community decision making; CREMA governance structures include an executive body, a constitution and by-laws, and community-level committees.

AgNRM, in close collaboration with the Wildlife Division, is implementing activities in eight target landscapes located in three ecological corridors in northern Ghana: Black Volta, Western Corridor and Eastern Biodiversity Corridor.

AgNRM is implementing activities in eight target CREMAs:

- Black Volta Corridor: Wechiau and Zukpiri CREMAs and Dorimon landscape
- Western Biodiversity Corridor: Sanyiga Kasena Gavara Kara (SKGK), Builsa Yening, Moaduri Wuntaluri Kuwesasi (MWK)
- Eastern Biodiversity Corridor: Bongo-Nangodi-Widnaba-Tilli enclave, Tilli-Sakote-Datuku Kusanaba enclave

Meet AgNRM Implementers:

- Winrock International (WI), leads AgNRM's as prime awardee, bringing proven technical and managerial expertise in integrated, sustainable landscape management and livelihoods
- TechnoServe (TNS), a sub-awardee, is a key partner for value chains, food security and market driven livelihoods
- The Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) is strengthening CREMAs as an AgNRM sub-awardee
- Sub-awardee, Centre for Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies (CECOTAPS) is enabling communities to improve access to natural resources and resolve land tenure and other conflicts

AgNRM IN BRIEF

The Feed the Future Ghana Agriculture and Natural Resource Management project (AgNRM) is a USAID-funded, five-year program that aims to address issues of environmental and natural resource management in northern Ghana.

The AgNRM project provides 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.

The goal of the AgNRM project is to alleviate poverty through sustainable increases in wealth and nutrition from natural and non-traditional agriculture products by addressing environmental, agricultural, governance and natural resource management challenges. AgNRM project interventions will encourage the adoption of improved practices, technologies and behaviors; better functioning value chains and governance structures and more equitable access to land and natural resources.

AgNRM works to achieve the following four outcomes:

- Increase income from natural resource products – shea, moringa, tamarind and dawadawa
- Improve food and nutritional security
- Increase farmer and community security/access to land and natural resources
- Strengthen environmental stewardship

Towards a More Secure Future – AgNRM empowers women to generate more income from natural resource products



AgNRM beneficiaries embrace the thriving business opportunities in the processing of Natural Resource Products (NRPs), including shea and moringa, having received practical training in its economic and nutritional utilization. AgNRM activities in beneficiary communities increased their understanding of the income generation potential of shea, moringa, tamarind and dawadawa with a total of 800 beneficiaries been trained on the NRP utilization. This activity encouraged group members to grow their nascent NRP enterprises by building their capacity to produce commodities that meet market specifications and linking them directly to market opportunities, which will empower these entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and enhance their incomes. From September 26-30, 2017, twelve of the new moringa

entrepreneurs participated in the 8th National Food and Agricultural Fair in Tamale, and earned \$278 (Ghc 979) from their sales. AgNRM analysis of opportunities and competitiveness of NRPs indicated large numbers of women involved in the processing and marketing of these products. The AgNRM team therefore also delivered customized training on moringa product production and marketing that has enabled at least 29 people to begin NRP production.

“I was able to secure a market for my moringa oil – a soap production company in Tamale is interested in buying whatever I can produce. I quickly sold all my moringa oil at the fair and I am very grateful to AgNRM for this opportunity.” Kaminang Mwini-ibu (Wwechiau)



AgNRM Partners Corner

AgNRM works with Government of Ghana partners and stakeholders which includes the Forestry Commission and Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

“It is exciting to partner with the USAID AgNRM project, especially working along the CREMA model in ensuring natural resource management, promoting livelihood activities, and enhancing community leadership and governance structures.”

John Naada, Northern Zonal Manager, Wildlife Division

FARMERS ADOPT IMPROVED TECHNOLOGIES AND NEW HIGH-YIELDING NUTRITIONAL CROP TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY

Farmers in AgNRM's beneficiary communities face multiple challenges in achieving nutritional security. Challenges include erratic rainfall, low soil fertility, and degraded land cover. AgNRM supports farmers' efforts with improved technologies and new crops that contribute to food and nutritional security and household resilience. So far, the AgNRM team has promoted several Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) interventions to address low soil fertility and declining crop yields. So far, a total of 2,414 beneficiaries have learned about improved CSA practices, which include use of drought tolerant seeds,

organic fertilizers, zai pit construction and mulching. AgNRM's training on the filtration and use of grey water for watering home gardens in the dry season created the opportunity for women to further bolster their household nutrition through the cultivation of various types of vegetables including tomatoes, garden eggs, pepper, okra and pumpkin leaves. AgNRM widely promoted the cultivation and consumption of Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) to encourage consumption of the Vitamin A rich food and improve nutritional diversity. The USAID-funded Resiliency in Northern Ghana project supported



Danaa Tapour of Wechiau, along with many other AgNRM beneficiaries, enthusiastically cultivated OFSP for the first time in 2017.

AgNRM with 200,000 seed vines, which AgNRM distributed to support 2,493 farmers during the 2017 rainy season.

SUCCESS STORY

"I was unaware of a lot of things about home gardening," Alima says. "Now I have a garden where I grow okra, pepper, pumpkin leaves, eggplant, and moringa trees."

Alima Sulemana, a married mother of five, had a simple dream: to grow a small vegetable garden behind her house in Dorimon, in the Wa West district of Ghana's Upper West region. Though she received support from the Sumbula Village Savings and Loan Association, she wanted more – improved nutrition for her family and a little extra money from selling produce. However, she found herself facing a larger challenge. As a woman, Alima had little to no control over the land behind her house, making investing time and effort into a vegetable garden unappealing. Land security is a huge challenge for women like Alima across northern Ghana, especially in rural communities where the value of land is tied to agricultural productivity. This lack of tenure and income security affects long term investments both in the land itself and in perennial crops, holding women like Alima back. But in October 2016, Alima became a beneficiary of the AgNRM project. AgNRM works to secure land tenure rights for women and vulnerable groups through

Land tenure security for women inspires sustainable gardening practices



negotiation and respect for local norms. Through this USAID support and collaboration with the Dorimon Traditional Council, Alima successfully obtained her own land from her husband, which she now uses for home gardening. Having secured her tenure rights, Alima now dictates what crops grow on her land, with little interference from her husband. The garden has allowed Alima to diversify family's diet, providing them with more meal choices and health benefits. Having benefited from AgNRM's work, Alima has become a champion for land tenure rights and improved techniques for home gardens in her community. So far, she knows of three women who are putting into practice the techniques she taught them.

www.feedthefuture.gov

*For more information contact: Chief of Party, Ghana AgNRM Project,
Kalpohin Residential Area, P. O. Box 2958, Tamale*

