



**USAID** | **GHANA**  
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# **FEED THE FUTURE AGRICULTURE POLICY SUPPORT PROJECT (APSP)**

**QUARTERLY REPORT (OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2014)  
FISCAL YEAR 2015, QUARTER 1**



**January 30, 2015**

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Chemonics International Inc.



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**Contract No. 641-C-14-00001**

**Cover Photo: APSP Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) for Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) Zone Non-state Actors in Tamale, October, 2014.**

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The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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## ACRONYMS

ACA	Advocacy Capacity Assessment
APPDF	Agricultural Public Private Dialogue Forum
APS	Annual Public Statement
APSP	USAID/Agriculture Policy Support Project
ASWG	Agriculture Sector Working Group
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing System
CCC	Collaborative Circle of COPs
CEPA	Center for Policy Analysis
COP	Chief of Party
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DCS	Directorate of Crop Services
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EOI	Expression of Interest
FASDEP	Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy
FBO	Farmer-Based Organizations
FTF	Feed the Future
FY	Fiscal Year
GADS	Gender in Agriculture Development Strategy
GASIP	Ghana Agriculture Sector Investment Plan
GIMPA	Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GOG	Government of Ghana
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Institute
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
ISU	Iowa State University
JSR	Joint Sector Review
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MESTI	Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovations
METASIP	Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MoFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
MoTI	Ministry of Trade and Industries
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAFCO	National Buffer Stock Company
NSA	Non-State Actor
NSTL	National Seed Testing Laboratory
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PEF	Private Enterprise Federation
PPMED	Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate
PPRSD	Plant Protection and Regulatory Services
Re-SAKSS	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
RFA	Request for Applications
RFP	Request for Proposals
SADA	Savannah Accelerated Development Authority
SAKSS	Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
SRID	Statistics Research and Information Directorate
TO	Task Order
TOR	Terms of Reference
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSD	Veterinary Services Directorate
WAFP	USAID/West Africa Fertilizer Program
WASP	USAID/West African Seed Program
WIAD	Women in Agriculture Development Directorate

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The USAID/Ghana Feed the Future Agriculture Policy Support Project (APSP) I is pleased to present the quarterly report for October to December 2014, the first quarter of fiscal year 2015 (FY15), or Year 2 (Y2) of the project. APSP aims to improve the food security enabling environment for private sector investment by increasing the capacity of public and private stakeholders to implement evidence-based agriculture policies, as well as perform rigorous monitoring and evaluation of agricultural programs implemented under the Ghanaian Ministry of Food and Agriculture's (MoFA) Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP).

APSP activities are focused around the project's three components:

1. Policy formation and implementation, to improve Ghana's agricultural sector policy process for evidence-based decision making related to food security;
2. Policy research, to increase rigorous policy analysis capacity for evidence-based policy making; and
3. Policy advocacy, to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of private organizations and the media to participate and amplify their voice in the public policy process.

During this reporting period, the project's main accomplishments are as follows:

- Introductory meeting with the Minister of Food and Agriculture, which contributed to the scaling-up of project activities. Following the meeting, the project and the ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish collaborative efforts. APSP has supported the ministry to implement activities through this MOU in Q1, including a workshop on Agriculture Decentralization and harmonizing Ghanaian Seed and Pest Quarantine Policies with regulations of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In addition, upcoming meetings with the METASIP Steering Committee and the SAKSS Nodes will serve as opportunities for the project to identify additional activities to support these boards.
- Launching of a campaign to increase awareness on the objectives and opportunities of the Seeds and Fertilizers Act, in collaboration with the Directorates for Plant Protection and Regulatory Services (PPRS) and Crop Services (DCS) of MoFA
- Completion of a nation-wide survey on "Gender in Agriculture in Ghana" for the Women in Agriculture Development (WIAD) MoFA directorate. The study provides gender-disaggregated data for MoFA to use to inform the implementation of its gender strategy.
- Validation of the agriculture data collected by the Statistics Research and Information Directorate (SRID) and reported in its annual "Fact and Figures" compendium. This is the first time since the directorate's inception in 1985 that the data is validated.
- Training events on Ghana's agriculture policy to educate more than 280 individuals representing more than 140 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and district and regional branches of government, including members of District Assemblies. These trainings promote public-private dialogues on agriculture concerns.
- Institutional and advocacy capacity assessment of 45 CSOs to engage in agriculture policy advocacy.
- Annual Public Statement (APS) release and receipt of grant concept papers for capacity building, policy research and policy advocacy initiatives from numerous organizations.

## A. PROGRESS BY COMPONENT

### A1. Component 1: Policy Formation and Implementation

Component 1 seeks to improve Ghana's agricultural sector policy process for evidence-based decision making related to food security through four main pillars:

- Improved capacity for policy analysis and evaluation by core METASIP Implementing institutions by standing up the Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) node;
- Enhanced implementation of improved policies, regulations, and administrative procedures as outlined by Government of Ghana-endorsed policy documents and agreements between GOVERNMENT OF GHANA, donors and private sector;
- Improved policies that enable private sector development, commercialization and use improved agricultural inputs to increase smallholder productivity and incomes; and,
- Improved execution of METASIP programs.

#### A1a. Progress to date per agreed-upon deliverables

*Embedding a Policy Advisor and Researcher within MOFA's Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (PPMED).* In November, APSP partner the Center for Policy Analysis (CEPA) selected a candidate to serve as the Embedded Policy Advisor at MoFA's PPMED. The Ministry approved the selected candidate at the end of the quarter. The project anticipates the Embedded Policy Advisor will begin work at PPMED before the end of the second quarter of FY15. The Advisor will work mainly with MoFA, PPMED, and SRID, as well as other METASIP/SAKSS implementing agencies, to enhance their technical, monitoring and evaluation, and administrative capacities, as well as to provide recommendations on policy implementation, and ensure delivery and successful, implementation of USAID-funded activities.

#### COMPONENT 1: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Embedded Policy Advisor identified and approved by MoFA.
- Task order signed with GIMPA to initiate gaps analysis and develop training manuals for MoFA officials and other METASIP implementing agencies.
- Sensitization education campaign on Seeds and Fertilizer Act (Act 803) initiated.
- Ghana agriculture data validated for the first time by SRID with the support of APSP.
- WIAD baseline survey on Gender and Agriculture in Ghana completed.
- NSTL membership in ISTA renewed, ensuring international certification of its services.

*Conduct Gap Analysis and Train METASIP/SAKSS Members.* APSP signed a task order with project partner the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in November 2014, to carry out a training needs assessment. This assessment will serve to inform the development of relevant training materials for MoFA and other METASIP/SAKSS-implementing agencies. GIMPA submitted an Inception Report in December 2014 and will conduct the assessment in the second quarter of this fiscal year.

*Review Current Architecture of SAKSS.* During a meeting in October 2014, MoFA Chief Director and the PPMED Director requested the project's assistance in reviewing the organizational structure of METASIP/SAKSS. Responding to this demand from MoFA, APSP included in GIMPA's Task Order a review of the current institutional and operational architecture of the SAKSS Nodes and the METASIP Steering Committee. Recommendations from GIMPA will

yield information on the technical and organizational needs of both to make them more effective in their work.

*Develop Revitalization Plan for SAKSS.* In Q1 APSP initiated steps to develop a revitalization plan for SAKSS, including planning a 3-day workshop to discuss METASIP/SAKSS and the agriculture policy matrix. APSP is planning to hold this workshop early Q2 and will continue to engage PPMED to review and revitalize the SAKSS structure in the second quarter.



SAKSS/METASIP Meeting – November 2014

*Build Capacity of MoFA technical directorate Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD) in Gender Mainstreaming.* Under a subcontract awarded in the previous quarter, GIMPA conducted a baseline survey on “Gender and Agriculture in Ghana” from October thru December, to measure the level of gender integration and participation in Ghana’s agriculture sector. GIMPA gathered data per WIAD’s gender integration indicators, as required by Ghana’s Gender and Agriculture Development Strategy (GADS). In December 2014, GIMPA submitted their draft report and held a validation workshop for 28 participants, primarily from MoFA, to receive feedback on the report and answer questions on the data analysis. GIMPA is currently finalizing the report, based on comments received during the workshop, which will be available in the second quarter. In addition, GIMPA is also conducting a training needs assessment of WIAD staff, which will provide specific information on the WIAD’s capacity building needs that APSP can support.

*Draft Agriculture Policies/Laws.* The Veterinary Services Directorate (VSD) of MoFA invited APSP to participate in a 2-day workshop to develop a livestock policy for the Ministry in late November 2014. The forum also covered the need for a Hatcheries and a Disease and Animal Act, in order to regulate the technical aspects of animal production and to promote animal disease control. During a follow-up meeting in December 2014, the VSD Deputy Director requested APSP support to help draft these two bills. VSD is currently drafting a concept paper regarding this request, which APSP expects to receive in Q2.

*Undertake Feasibility Assessment of Proposed Commodity Exchange.* APSP worked with its local subcontractor, CEPA, to finalize the terms of reference for the feasibility assessment of the Ghana commodity exchange. The project identified and is currently on-boarding two consultants to conduct this assessment during the second quarter.

*Enhance Momentum of New Alliance.* In mid-October, APSP senior staff met with officials from MoFA and private sector representatives to discuss how APSP could provide support to enhance the New Alliance initiative. As a result, APSP sponsored two advertisements in the ‘Ghanaian Times’ and the ‘Daily Graphic’ on October 30, 2014, to commemorate Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security. The advertisements provided information to educate the public on the background, rationale, current conditions and commitment of the government of Ghana to support New Alliance goals to achieving food and nutrition security.

*Support for Implementation of the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803).* APSP provided support to PPRSD and DCS of MoFA to organize the first educational activity on Act 803 in Koforidua. A total of 81 stakeholders (68 male and 13 female) from the Eastern, Greater Accra and Volta regions participated to the event. Three additional campaign events aimed at deepening stakeholders' knowledge of the Plant and Fertilizers Act, are scheduled for other regions of Ghana throughout FY 2015. To ensure that stakeholders are adequately informed about the law, APSP also purchased 1,500 copies each of Act 803, the Fertilizer Regulations, and the Plant Protection Regulations documents for distribution across the country. These documents will be distributed to government ministries, departments and agencies charged with implementation of the Act, such as, the Ghana Policy, Customs, Immigration service, the Ghana Revenue Authority, and private end-users of these inputs, including farmers, input suppliers, local NGOs, and other development partners and the media.

*National Soil Fertility Study.* APSP has been collaborating with the International Food Policy Institute (IFPRI) and the USAID/West Africa Fertilizer Program (WAFP) over the course of Q1 to undertake a comprehensive study of soil fertility in Ghana. The three projects are providing logistical and financial support to commission the study, and together have identified five technical experts and will travel to Ghana in late January 2015 to conduct the assessment and produce the study.

*Support Accreditation of National Seed Testing Laboratory (NSTL).* In December 2014, APSP renewed PPRSD's annual subscription to the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). Membership to ISTA enables the NSTL to continue the process of international accreditation for the lab's seeds certification activities, and contributes to enhancing Ghana's participation in seed testing on a regional scale and facilitates Ghana's participation in the international seed trade.

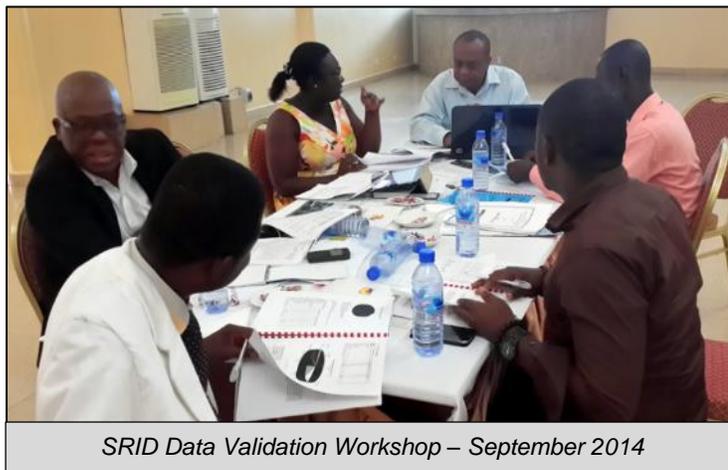
*Operationalize Inputs Regulations/Policies.* APSP is working with the DCS of MoFA to revise and harmonize Ghana's Seeds Regulations and National Quarantine Pest List with the lists of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). MoFA originally submitted the current draft regulations to Parliament for approval, but these were rejected on the grounds that they were not in harmony with ECOWAS protocols. APSP has been coordinating with MoFA since November to organize a technical working group to re-align and validate the regulations. APSP has engaged three experts from the USAID/West Africa Seed Program (WASP or CORAF/WECARD), to lead the technical working groups to re-draft the regulations in the second quarter of FY 2015.

*Support MoFAD Policy on Aquaculture Development.* In an effort to address constraints in aquaculture development, such as decreased fishing yields, APSP met with officials from the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (MoFAD) in late November 2014 to discuss potential support for the Aquaculture Development policy. As follow-up from the meeting, MoFAD is preparing to submit a concept paper and formal request for support to APSP in the second quarter of FY 2015.

*Improve Agriculture Sector Data Collection and Analysis.* During the reporting period, APSP continued efforts to strengthen Ghana's agricultural data credibility. Building upon feedback received from an agricultural data validation workshop, APSP continued working with SRID to enhance the content and improve data quality of its annual publication "*Facts and Figures 2013.*"

In December 2014, APSP initiated publication of the newly validated data compendium, which will be available in February 2015.

APSP is also working with SRID to develop an IT-based, computer-assisted personal interviewing system (CAPI) to collect, analyze, report and manage Ghana Agriculture Production and Market Surveys questionnaire data across all 216 districts of Ghana. This mechanism will improve the efficiency of agriculture data collection and analysis, as well as enhance the credibility of the sector's data. APSP collaborated with SRID to develop a scope of work for the assignment and will issue a request for proposals (RFP) in January 2015 to competitively award the development of the CAPI system in FY 2015.



*Develop a Compendium of Economic and Business Indicators.* During discussions with MoFA, APSP learned that the MoFA Resource Center was also considering developing a similar compendium of economic and business indicators. To promote sustainability and eliminate any duplication of efforts, APSP will collaborate with the Ministry to produce the document. An initial meeting was held with the Head of the Resource Center in December 2014, to discuss areas of cooperation, and APSP will continue development of the publication in Q2.

*Collaboration with Other Partners.* During the review period, APSP continued collaboration with various development partners in an effort to improve the agriculture sector policy formation and implementation. During the quarter, APSP met with:

- The Country Program Manager of the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) to discuss potential collaboration in the implementation of the recently launched Ghana Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (GASIP).
- The Regional-SAKSS (Re-SAKSS) Coordinator to coordinate support to METASIP/SAKSS. Based on the meeting, APSP agreed to furnish the METASIP Secretariat office while Re-SAKSS will cover the salaries of two staff members to manage the office.
- Africa Lead to promote collaboration between the projects, specifically in the provision of technical assistance to the Private Enterprise Federation (PEF) to develop a grant application for the revival and development of the Agriculture Public-Private Development Forum (APPDF).
- The Collaborative Circle of COPs (CCC) of the USAID/Ghana Feed the Future (FTF) projects met twice during the reporting period. APSP agreed to develop a matrix highlighting each FTF project's annual work plan objectives in order to identify any and potential areas for collaboration.

#### **A1b. Identification of specific problems and recommendations for corrective action.**

Through the end of FY 2014, securing time to meet with MoFA management presented challenges and resulted in delays obtaining their buy-in for APSP initiatives. While the challenge of obtaining MoFA's buy-in to APSP initiatives has been fully resolved with the Q1 meeting with the Minister and subsequent MOU signing, MoFA has had to delay certain activities, resulting in postponements. These include the meeting of members of the Act 803 Councils, an event with METASIP Steering Committee/SAKSS members, and implementation 2014 Joint Sector Review (JSR) policy recommendations. APSP is committed to moving activities forward despite the need to reschedule certain events, for example by reviewing the JSR for consideration by the Agriculture Sector Working Group (ASWG) so as to advance project implementation.

Now that APSP better understands Government of Ghana procedures and operations, the project is positioned to plan accordingly, and has taken preparatory steps including sharing a document outlining a number of administrative and operational procedures with PPMED as a guide to identify, plan, and implement activities.

### **A1c. Outcomes of high level meetings**

On October 3, 2014, APSP had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Food and Agriculture. More than 40 participants attended the meeting, including the Deputy Minister for Crops, the Chief Director and all Regional and National Directors of the Ministry. USAID/Ghana's Director of Economic Growth and APSP COR also attended the meeting. The Minister received the meeting and presentation on APSP project objectives, on-going activities, and indicators with appreciation. Following the meeting, APSP signed a MOU with MOFA to establish future collaboration.



APSP met with the Deputy Minister for Crops to discuss potential support facilitating the passage of the Plant Breeders' Bill. The Deputy Minister requested APSP support to create a platform where all parties could meet for consultations to pave way for the passage of the Bill, and as a next step is arranging a meeting between APSP and leadership of Parliament to discuss the platform.

APSP also met with the Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovations (MESTI) to discuss APSP support for the Bio-Safety Act (Act 831). The Ministry has drafted the regulations of Act 831, and is preparing to submit them to Parliament for approval. A Bio-Safety Board will be inaugurated in 2015 and MESTI is rehabilitating a facility for use as a Secretariat for the Board. MESTI has requested APSP support to furnish the Secretariat and train Board members to effectively implement Act 831. The Ministry is also working on a concept paper to request APSP assistance in an educational campaign on genetically modified organisms.

In December, APSP met with the Minister of Food and Agriculture to discuss activities such as a meeting of the three Councils mandated by the Seeds and Fertilizer Act (Act 803). The meeting, which is expected to take place in the second quarter of FY2015, will serve as a foundation for APSP to initiate a training needs assessment and develop a capacity building training program for council members to increase their efficiency to oversee the implementation of Act 803. APSP also briefed the Minister about the upcoming soil fertility mission and study co-sponsored by IFPRI, WAFP and APSP. The Minister provided his full support to this initiative, which will provide the government of Ghana with policy options in soil fertility management.



#### **A1d. Assessment of the validity and efficacy of progress against the objectives and results**

APSP has made meaningful progress toward Component 1 since obtaining buy-in from the Minister of Food and Agriculture and the MoFA management team. MoFA, including the Minister, Deputy Ministers and the Chief Director, has provided support for various project initiatives and the collaboration between APSP and the Ministry has had a fruitful start. For example, the Chief Director plans to meet with APSP consultants during the recent needs assessment and in development of training manuals for ministry staff.

The MOU between MoFA and APSP has served as a guide to implementing MoFA-related project activities, and has initiated effective and dynamic mutual collaboration. Future activities with MoFA's Directorates and other units under the MOU now only require a concept paper and budget describing the activity to facilitate implementation, eliminating the previous lengthy process whereby MoFA staff needed to seek prior consent from management to initiate activities with the project. Through these efforts, APSP and MOFA have achieved more efficient collaboration.

#### **A1e. Reasons why established targets not met.**

The inability to meet with the Minister of Food and Agriculture until October 2014 affected APSP's ability to initiate a number of key activities and achieve some deliverables in the first year of project implementation, as well as the first quarter of FY 2015. While the project has made substantial progress, some activities are still delayed. For instance, the needs assessments

for the three Councils under Act 803 and the METASIP Steering Committee cannot be initiated until MoFA's authorities organize meetings of these bodies and concur with the interventions. MOFA also postponed the event on the METASIP/SAKSS revitalization and research validation twice, until Q2. Lastly, the delay in finalizing APSP's contractual relationship with CEPA, has deferred the onboarding of CEPA's Policy Advisor, who will be embedded with PPMED, however this activity is moving forward in Q2.

## **A2. Component 2: Policy Research**

Component 2 seeks to facilitate increased availability of rigorous policy analysis capacity for evidence-based policymaking.

### **A2a. Progress to date per the agreed upon deliverables**

*Initiate grants management assignment.* In November 2014, APSP finalized the project grants manual and grants management system. Shortly thereafter, on December 4, the project issued an APS to solicit grant concept papers. APSP kicked off grants activities with a pre-application meeting on December 18, 2014, for 65 potential applicants to inform them about the APSP grant program, eligible activities and organizations, and help them prepare to submit concept notes in response to the APS. Following the high attendance and quality of technical issues covered, the project anticipates a diverse range of important grants will result, and has scheduled a similar meeting will take place in January in Tamale for potential applicants from the north.

*Issue Request for Applications (RFA) to receive grant applications.* The project circulated an expression of interest to nine universities and research organizations in December 2014 to gauge interest in grants activities to support METASIP priority research studies and thesis dissertations. Based on the responses, which are expected in January, and outcomes of the METASIP/SAKSS review meetings in February, APSP will issue an RFA to solicit grant applications for these high-level research priorities in the second quarter. Further capacity building for the technical team may be required as the first grants are awarded to ensure adequate oversight and management of grant programs and operations.

*Discussions on (METASIP/SAKSS) Research with MoFA.* APSP has initiated discussions with MoFA to agree on mechanisms to commission studies on identified research topics. In the first quarter, APSP held discussions with the ECOWAS Re-SAKSS Coordinator to organise a meeting with MoFA including SAKSS Secretariat and the METASIP Steering Committee in February 2015 to review research priorities.

### **A2b. Challenges and recommendations for adjustments and corrective action**

Responses from research institutions and universities to the call for expressions of interest have been slow to transpire and have in turn delayed the competition for research grants, as well as the assessment of research capacities of these institutions. In the second quarter, APSP will continue to proactively reach out to these institutions to build relationships and enhance cooperation with them.

Though progress has been made with the METASIP Steering Committee/SAKSS nodes in identifying relevant research areas, ramping up support for policy research still presents a

challenge due to the competing work agendas on MoFA staff. To address this challenge, APSP is consulting with relevant stakeholders and plans to revitalize the SAKSS nodes in the next quarter.

### A2c. Assessment of progress against objectives

The APSP grants program has been launched, and the project expect to award its first grants in Q2 of FY15, which will allow APSP to make more progress on this front. In the meantime, the project has already supported activities for the SAKSS Nodes and has met with MoFA representatives in charge of the SAKSS Program. The project has also begun to approach Ghanaian academic institutions to express interest in financing of graduate thesis dissertations. This has set the ground work for future collaboration and capacity building of these organizations.

### A3. Component 3: Policy Advocacy

Component 3 is focused on building the capacity of civil society and farmers based organizations to develop and implement policy advocacy activities, amplifying their voice in the agriculture policy process to:

- Improve engagement of the private sector in food security policy reforms and implementation,
- Improve the capacity of the private sector to advocate for pro-business agriculture sector reforms, and
- Provide civil society support for the policy efforts of other Ghana FTF Projects.

**COMPONENT 3: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 2 Agriculture Public-Private Dialogue Forums held for a total of 209 participants in Yendi/Mion and Dodowa.
- 2 Agriculture Policy training workshops delivered for 77 representatives of 52 NSAs in Accra and Tamale.
- 2 Organizational Capacity Assessment workshops held for 92 representatives of 43 NSAs.
- Advocacy Capacity Assessments of 25 national-level NSAs completed.

#### A3a. Progress to date per agreed deliverables

*Organization of Education and Sensitization Forums on Ghana’s Agriculture Policy.* Ghana’s agriculture policy process has traditionally lacked active private sector input and participation. To educate the private sector in the policy process and the content of Ghana’s agriculture policy, namely the FASDEP, METASIP, and GASIP documents, APSP organized a number of education and sensitization forums and workshops for public and private stakeholders, including farmer-based organizations (FBOs), CSOs, as well as district and regional public officials as follows:

Location	Date	Number of Individual Participants	Gender disaggregation		Number & Type of Organizations
			Female	Male	
Yendi	11/18/2014	125	9	116	35 FBOs, CSOs, District Assembly, Regional & District Dept. of Agriculture, Value Chain Committees
Tamale	11/19/2014	35	7	28	25 CSOs, FBOs, agribusiness associations
Accra	12/10/2014	42	10	32	52 CSOs, FBOs, agribusiness associations
Dodowa	12/18/2014	84	21	63	30 FBOs, CSOs, District Assembly, Dept. of Agriculture
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>286</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>142 organizations</b>

At the start of the forums, APSP conducted a rapid assessment of the participants' knowledge and understanding of Ghana's agriculture policy. The assessment showed that more than 95 percent of the participants had no knowledge of Ghana's agriculture policy. Following the workshops, participants reported having a better appreciation of the policy environment and their role in the policy process. Based on the workshops, participants resolved to lobby their District Assemblies to establish separate agriculture sub-committees, and agreed to proactively engage with their Assemblies to provide input into agriculture policy issues. For example, participants from the Shai Osudoku district agreed to work together to advocate for agriculture land security and to work with local authorities to create an enabling environment for private investment in rice production milling and provision of services to smallholder rice farmers around the Asutsuare Irrigation project.



*Participants and Discussions from Yendi Sensitization Forum in November 2014*

*Assessment of the Advocacy Capacity of NSAs at the National Level and SADA Zone.* To address the weak capacity of Non-State Actors (NSAs) to advocate for agriculture policy changes and alternatives, APSP carried out detailed capacity training needs assessment of 25 NSAs at the national level and another 20 NSAs in the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) zone.

APSP developed an advocacy capacity assessment (ACA) questionnaire, which 45 organizations completed during the quarter. The ACA assessed critical capacity areas in these organizations, such as decision-making structure, advocacy agendas, organizational commitment to/resources for advocacy, advocacy strategies, media skills and infrastructure. Results of the assessment indicate that most national-level NSAs have technical, corporate and institutional weaknesses, which hamper their agriculture policy advocacy capacities and require some level of capacity building assistance to enhance their activities in these areas. The ACA report for NSAs from the SADA zone will be completed next quarter. In order to address some of these challenges, the project will issue next quarter a RFA to entertain grant applications for the strengthening of Ghanaian institutional capacities to advocate for agriculture policy.

*Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) Workshops for NSAs.* In October 2014, APSP held two OCA validation workshops in Accra and Tamale. A total of 92 participants (76 males and 16 females), representing 57 CSOs attended the workshops. The workshops highlighted results of the national level and SADA zone OCA meetings; introduced participants to the ACA tool, which can be used to assess and analyze a CSO's advocacy capacity weaknesses and needs; and announced APSP's upcoming grant program, whereby NSA's could apply for grant assistance to enhance their advocacy capacities.



APSP COR, Dr. Fenton Sands at a NSA Media Event sponsored by the project

*Issue Grants to select NSA's for implementation of Agriculture Policy Advocacy Programs.* In December 2014, APSP issued an APS to solicit grant concept papers for activities to “Strengthening Mutual Accountability in the Agriculture Policy Process.” The APS, which is a long-term call for grants open through December 31, 2015, invites prospective applicants to submit proposals for “short-term” activities (1-3 months in duration) to strengthen their capacity to participate in the agriculture policy process by implementing research, policy advocacy and/or capacity building activities. APSP began receiving concept papers under the APS in late December, and will initiate the grant review and award process early in the second quarter. In late January, APSP will also issue an RFA for longer-term grants to “Enhance Institutional Capacity for Agricultural Policy Support Initiatives.”

### **A3b. Identification of specific problems and recommendations for corrective action**

*Improving Quality Policy Advocacy.* Most of the NSAs, including FBOs, CSOs and media houses, mapped under the ACA have limited skills and knowledge in agriculture policy advocacy and reporting. This presents a potential challenge regarding their readiness to identify policy issues, advocate for change and policy alternatives, or provide effective input in the agriculture policies of Ghana. Through the grants program, APSP will invite organizations to submit grant applications to enhance their policy advocacy capacities.

*PEF Capacity-Building.* On project priority is to revive APPDF, an activity PEF plans to lead. PEF's organizational capacity requires strengthening to develop and submit technical and financial proposals for assistance, therefore APSP has worked with the USAID AfricaLead program to secure a consultant to assist PEF in developing a grant application for the revival of the APPDF.

### **A3c. Outcomes of high-level meetings and field visits**

On December 4, 2014, the policy teams of USAID/ADVANCE II and APSP met to discuss possible areas of collaboration in policy advocacy, training and sensitization between the two projects. Based on this meeting, APSP will lead capacity development of NSAs in policy

advocacy at the national level, and ADVANCE II will lead implementation of these activities for NSAs at the district level in the SADA zone.

**A3d. Assessment of validity and efficacy of progress against the objectives and results.**

Project implementation has progressed steadily as a result of the completion of the OCA and ACA for NSAs in Accra and the SADA zone. With the completion of the two assessments, the foundation is laid to design and implement targeted capacity building interventions to enhance the policy advocacy skills of the NSAs. Agriculture policy education and sensitization forums at the district level are also helping to promote platforms for public-private dialogue on agriculture policies at the local level. Through these forums APSP is highlighting the importance of agriculture for the development of the districts and leading to the formation of agriculture sub-committees in the district assemblies.

**A3e. Reasons why established targets were not met**

The delayed response from PEF in submitting a proposal for APSP support for the revitalization of the APPDF has been due to capacity constraints within the organization. In order to move forward with APPDF activities, APSP is working with AfricaLead to provide PEF with the needed capacity and support.

## B. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER BY COMPONENT

Activity	Component 1 Policy Formation and Implementation	Component 2 Policy Research	Component 3 Policy Advocacy
<b>High-Level Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and participate in MoFA's planned meeting to discuss METASIP/SAKSS research and institutional needs.</li> <li>Work with USAID to facilitate APSP's introductory meeting with the Parliamentary Sub Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold discussions with selected research institutions and universities, including METASIP/SAKSS to agree on mechanisms for commissioning identified research priorities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Technical Assistance, Trainings, and Assessments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embed CEPA's Policy Advisor at MoFA PPMED to begin work.</li> <li>Initiate a soil fertility management study</li> <li>Commission a feasibility assessment of the government of Ghana's commodity exchange initiative.</li> <li>Finalize the baseline study on Gender and Agriculture for WIAD.</li> <li>Review GIMPA's needs assessment results and training materials developed for METASIP/SAKSS and implementing agency members.</li> <li>Design a training program for WIAD staff in gender mainstreaming, gender sensitive program management to promote gender integration into MoFA operations.</li> <li>Conduct training needs assessment and develop training program for members of three Councils under Act 803.</li> <li>Liaise with USAID to finalize the TOR and commission the review of the National Buffer Stock Company (NAFCO)</li> <li>Facilitate a working group meeting to re-align the national seed and pest quarantine policies with ECOWAS regulations.</li> <li>Commission the drafting of the Fishery Hatcheries Policy, Agriculture Land Management Act, and Livestock Feed Control Act for submission to Cabinet and to Parliament.</li> <li>Participate in CCC COPs fact-finding mission to the northern area of the Volta Region to identify potential FTF interventions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the assessment of policy research capacities of selected research organizations, and designing training program to strengthen their capacities to achieve international standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize Agriculture Policy Education and Sensitization forums in selected districts and regions.</li> <li>Facilitate training of NSAs, specifically members of the APPDF, in organizational management, including coalition formation, service development and delivery.</li> <li>Train Media organizations to report on and communicate about agriculture policy and advocacy initiatives, at the national level and in the SADA Zone.</li> <li>Organize an ACA validation workshop undertaken for NSAs in Accra and SADA zone.</li> <li>Continue NSA training to enhance knowledge and understanding of FASDEP II and GASIP/METASIP at national, regional and district levels.</li> </ul>

<b>Grants Subcontract</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue an RFP and award contract for the design and development of a CAPI data collection and analysis system for SRID.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold APS pre-application workshop for CSOs in the northern region.</li> <li>• Begin issuing grants to selected NSAs for capacity building, policy advocacy and policy research activities.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue an RFA to solicit grant applications for agriculture policy research and dissertations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue an RFA and hold pre-application workshops in Accra and Tamale to solicit grant applications to “Enhance Institutional Capacity for Agricultural Policy Support Initiatives.”</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support of JSR recommendations once ASWG approves proposed MoFA review.</li> <li>• Support PPRSD and DCS to organize the second sensitization campaign on Act 803 in Kumasi in late February.</li> <li>• Work with MoFA to support New Alliance initiatives.</li> <li>• Collaborate with Re-SAKSS to furnish METASIP/SAKSS Secretariat, recruit two staff members, and launch Secretariat operations.</li> <li>• Operationalize the Secretariat for the three Councils mandated under Act 803.</li> <li>• Receive and distribute printed editions of SRID’s “Facts and Figures 2014.”</li> <li>• Support printing of copies of the National Seed Policy and the Fertilizer Policy for distribution to stakeholders across the country.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign MOUs with relevant research institutions and universities to identify research areas to complement on METASIP/SAKSS priorities.</li> <li>• Host a Knowledge Management &amp; Learning (KM&amp;L) meeting with other FTF projects in February 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue collaboration with other FTF Projects, especially to organize stakeholder meetings on policy discussions and agriculture policy education and sensitization forums in the SADA zone.</li> </ul>

## **C. PROGRESS ON GENDER AND COMPLIANCE**

### **C1. Gender**

The project has made it a priority to incorporate gender concerns from the beginning of the project, as exemplified by the development and submission of the project's gender strategy in FY 2014. APSP commissioned a survey focused on Gender in Agriculture, in collaboration with WIAD, to help measure performance indicators outlined in the GADS. As noted in Section A1a above, in December 2014, GIMPA submitted their draft report and held a validation workshop for 28 participants from MoFA, received feedback on the report and answered questions on the data collected. Based on comments received during the workshop, GIMPA is currently finalizing the report, which will be delivered to MoFA in the second quarter.

In an effort to promote gender integration into MoFA operations, APSP is also conducting a training needs assessment and designing a training program in gender mainstreaming, gender sensitive budgeting, data disaggregation, financial planning, monitoring and evaluation, and collaboration to enhance gender and nutrition programs in the Ministry.

The project is still working to identify a long-term Gender Specialist to join APSP in the second quarter. In addition, APSP has continuously ensured discussion of gender concerns in consultative meetings with MoFA, CSOs, and other public officials, to communicate to stakeholders the importance of gender in our interventions. An example of this is that APSP has included a gender and nutrition requirement for grant applications, as highlighted in the project's APS and upcoming RFA evaluation criteria.

### **C2. Environmental Compliance**

Mitigation of environmental impacts warrants significant consideration in the implementation of agriculture and food security projects. As a policy and research-focused project, most project activities, such as trainings and research initiatives, are not expected to yield environmental impacts. APSP activities in the first quarter consisted of trainings, consultative workshops and meetings, research and needs assessments, and strategic planning sessions with stakeholders. As per USAID regulations, these activities are categorically excluded from the project's Initial Environmental Examination (IEE).

The project does not anticipate that future activities will have any environmental impact. In its support to policy implementation, APSP will work with MoFA to ensure consideration of environmental impacts and that project activities complement these national policies. Furthermore, APSP will thoroughly assess incoming grant applications and proposed projects to ensure compliance with the IEE. The APSP M&E Plan has integrated environmental issues into the project M&E system to monitor activities for any actions that might have an indirect adverse effect on the environment.

## D. OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]					
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

## Annex A: APSP Indicator Data Table

	INDICATOR	BASELINE	CONTRACT TARGET	FY14		FY15		Analysis of processes/results against Targets
				TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	FY15 Q1 ACTUAL	
1	Score of combined key areas of organizational capacity among direct and indirect local implementing partners (Impact)	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concurrence approval for Embedded Advisor received from MoFA and is expected to start at MoFA by February 2015, pending USAID approval.</li> <li>- APSP has received an Inception Report for Capacity Needs Assessment for MoFA and other stakeholders. Assessment to be completed by February 2015. Training modules, based of identified training needs for MoFA Staff, to be developed.</li> <li>- APSP is liaising with the Re-SAKSS Coordinator / Policy Analyst to organise a meeting with SAKSS Secretariat and the METASIP Steering Committee in Q2 FY15.</li> </ul>
2	Number of individuals who have received U.S. government-supported short-term agriculture sector productivity or food security training (Output)	0	650	100	105	325	291	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 77 persons trained on agriculture policy in two workshops in Tamale and Accra - (60 males &amp; 17 females). There were 52 NSAs, CSOs, FBOs, and private for-profit agribusinesses attending</li> <li>- 28 persons participated (18male, 10 female) in a validation workshop to discuss and agree on a baseline study on Women in Agriculture.</li> <li>- 81 stakeholders (68 male, 13 female) from Volta, Greater Accra and Eastern regions were sensitized on the contents of the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803).</li> <li>- Total 105 in FY14 + (186=146 male+40 female) in Q1 FY15</li> </ul>
3	Percent change of key decision-makers reporting that activity-supported data to inform their decisions related to food security and agriculture policy issues contain gender sensitive data (Outcome)	0	60	N/A	N/A			TOR for STTA to measure this indicator (quantitative and qualitative study) among key directorates of MoFA, MoTI, MoFAD, MoF, WIAD, and Women's ministry is being developed
<b>Component 1: POLICY FORMATION &amp; IMPLEMENTATION</b>								
<b>Policy process for evidence-based decision-making related to food security improved</b>								
4	Number of agricultural enabling environment policies/ regulations /administrative procedures analyzed (40), drafted and presented for public consultation (35), presented for legislation/decreed (20), passed/approved (10) and passed for which implementation has begun (5) Stage 1: Analyzed (40) Stage 2: Drafted and presented for public consultation (35) Stage 3: Presented for legislation (20) Stage 4: Passed/approved (10) Stage 5: Passed for which implementation has begun(5)	0 0 0 0 0	40 35 20 10 5	N/A			0	Activities to achieve this indicator are listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assist MoFA in Analyzing, Drafting and harmonizing Ghana's Seed Regulations with that of the sub-region</li> <li>- Draft regulations for the Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act 831) with the Ministry of Environment Science &amp; Technology</li> <li>- Project is in discussions with MoFA regarding stakeholders forum on the Plant Breeders' Bill which is before Parliament</li> <li>- Develop of Policies on Aquaculture Development in Ghana</li> <li>- Hatcheries / Diseases of Animals Act</li> </ul>

5	Number of government units or divisions that have received short-term training (Output)	0	10	3		5	5	MoFA Directorates - PPMED, WIAD, SRID, PPRSD, DCS
6	Number of agriculture policy communications, developed and/or written for stakeholder consumption (Output)	0	200	20		50	2	- APSP sponsored advert in 2 dailies on 30th October, 2014, in commemoration of Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security to educate public on background, rationale, current situation and commitment of Government to ideals of the New Alliance. - Worked with SRID to publish "Facts & Figures" on Agriculture in Ghana document. 2000 copies to be printed.
7	Number of policy advocacy campaigns that focus on the separate needs of men and women small holder farmers (Output).	0	20	1	0	5	0	Policy advocacy activities of NSA grantees, in response to the project APS, will contribute to achieving this indicator target
<b>Component 2: POLICY RESEARCH</b> <b>Availability of rigorous policy analysis capacity for evidence-based policymaking increased</b>								
8	Number of high quality research reports published (Output)	0	6	1	0	2	0	- EOI sent out in December 2014 to 9 research institutions including universities to partner with the project for research. - Soil fertility Study is in progress
9	Score of improved areas of policy research capacity in assisted research organizations and units (Outcome)	TBD		N/A	N/A		-	Research institutions from EOI received will form the basis for this assessment
<b>Component 3: POLICY ADVOCACY</b> <b>The voice of the private sector (including civil society, private associations, and media) in the public policy process clarified and amplified</b>								
10	Score of the capacity of the private sector to advocate for pro-business agriculture sector reform in Ghana (Outcome)	TBD		N/A	N/A			- OCA results for 43 NSA validated, - ACA report on 45 NSAs compiled and being accessed
11	Number of public private advocacy dialogues focused on policy that supports private sector investment (Output)	0	90	5		40	2	- Two agriculture public-private forums held in three local governments areas. A total of 209 participants (179 males & 30 females) - Four more district public-private dialogues are planned for Q2
12	Percent of recommendations agreed upon during public private dialogues that are implemented (Outcome)	0	30	0		5	0	
13	Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and agribusiness associations (such as farmer based organizations), and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (Output)	0	45	10		20	0	- OCA results for 43 NSA validated, and will form the source for capacity building training - ACA report on 25 NSAs at the national level compiled; that of 20 NSAs in the SADA is being carried out. - Annual Program State (APS) has been issued for support to NSAs who interested in implementing a short-term one-time activities - Draft RFA for grants for NSAs is being reviewed for issuing in Q2



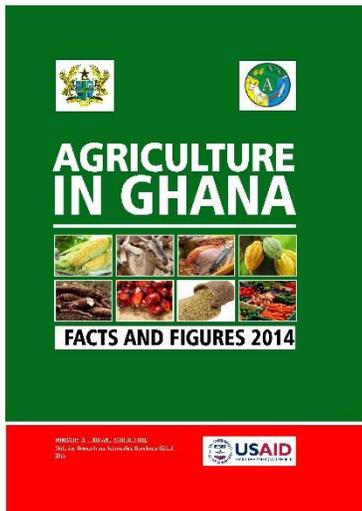
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# SNAPSHOT

## Enhancing the Credibility of Ghanaian Agriculture Data

**Agricultural data in Ghana gains validation and appreciation from public and private stakeholders**



*The 2014 Agriculture in Ghana: Facts and Figures publication.*

*“Without the assistance of the APSP, the validation workshop, revision and publication of the “Agriculture in Ghana: Facts and Figures 2014” would not have been possible”.*

*The Minister of Food and Agriculture*

### Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523-1000  
<http://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories>

The Statistics Research and Information Directorate (SRID) of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) was created in 1990 with responsibility to collect, analyze, publish and manage all agriculture-related data generated by MoFA, other Ministries Departments and Agencies and the private sector. With this data, SRID produces an annual publication “*Agriculture in Ghana: Facts and Figures*”. Unfortunately, past efforts to validate the data before printing have been unsuccessful, casting doubts on the credibility of the information included in the report. A concern which has been consistently voiced by sector stakeholders, including the Agriculture Sector Working Group and the Ministry.

Access to timely and good quality data and statistics is critical for evidence-based policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of agricultural programs, which in turn are tantamount for achieving sustained growth and development of Ghana’s agriculture sector, the main driver of the economy. The Government requires credible data to be furnished to other public and private stakeholders, including international organizations; researchers need timely, reliable and relevant data to guide effective decision-making.

In 2014, SRID approached the USAID/Ghana Feed the Future Agriculture Policy Support Project (APSP) for support in validating the 2014 agriculture data collected. A challenge that APSP readily embraced. In September 2014, APSP assisted SRID to organize a 2-day validation workshop in Koforidua, Ghana. The workshop brought together 63 representatives from relevant public and private sector institutions and organizations to deliberate on the 2014 data, validate and vet the information prior to the production of the 23rd edition of the annual publication.

Following the workshop, APSP further collaborated with SRID to respond to comments received from the workshop participants and to finalize and print the “*Agriculture in Ghana: Facts and Figures 2014*” document. In the acknowledgement of this year’s publication, which will be available shortly, the Minister expressly awards: “Special thanks go to the USAID/Ghana APSP for supporting both the validation workshop and the publication of this document, financially. Without the project’s support, the printing of the document would not have been possible”.



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## SNAPSHOT

# Enhancing Public-Private Dialogue in District-Level Agriculture Policy Development

**APSP promotes mutual accountability in the agriculture policy process by hosting policy forums in Yendi, Tamale, Accra, and Dodowa.**



Photo: APSP

*District Assembly representative greets a local extension agent and a private sector participant before the Agriculture Policy Forum in Yendi, November 2014.*

*“Despite the importance of agriculture in the development of the districts, it has yet to be recognized as an engine of growth and given its proper place in the district assembly deliberations; something we hope to change.”*

### Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523-1000

<http://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories>

Ghana’s agriculture policy process has traditionally lacked active private sector input. Particularly, the participation of districts and regional actors —both public and private—has been minimal. In order to address this gap, the USAID/Ghana Feed the Future Agriculture Policy Support Project (APSP) is working to expand and enhance the presence of these stakeholders in policy discussions. APSP activities are geared towards building the stakeholders’ knowledge base to effectively engage the government in agriculture policy deliberations and implementation, under an evolving decentralized governance system.

To this end APSP has organized a number of regional forums and workshops to educate and sensitize decentralized public officials, and private stakeholders on Ghana’s agriculture policy. While it is not frequent in Ghana for farmers, district assembly members, and district administrators to come together to discuss policy, in November and December 2014, four such events took place in Yendi/Mion, Tamale, Accra and Dodowa. The events brought together 286 representatives from 142 civil society and farmers organizations, as well as district assembly members and administrators from these regions.

During the forums, participants were educated on Ghana’s agriculture policies, such as FASDEP and METASIP, as well as on agriculture investment opportunities in their respective districts. Based on the insights gained on the roles and opportunities they had to play in the agriculture policymaking process, the participants unanimously agreed to establish statutory agriculture sub-committees in their respective district assemblies to enhance the development of customized agriculture policies and hence, promote local economic growth.

The results of the forums is becoming more evident in district-level policy decisions as local actors begin to play an active and more influential role in the agriculture policy process. APSP will continue to work with these type of organizations and policy makers across Ghana to ensure that district and regional demands on policy reform and agriculture investment programs are duly taken into account. Activities such as these are essential to strengthening mutual accountability and enhance the agricultural policy development process.