



## GHANA STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM (GSSP)

In the past 20 years Ghana has significantly advanced economic development and reduced poverty. Between 1984 and 2004, the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 4.8 percent a year. By 2015 the government aims to raise Ghanaians' per capita income above US\$1,000 and to achieve GDP growth rates of more than 8 percent a year. Agriculture is central to the government's efforts to achieve these objectives; it accounts for a third of the country's GDP and employs nearly 60 percent of the workforce. In developing effective strategies to unlock the potential of Ghanaian agriculture and to achieve the country's growth and poverty reduction goals, it is crucial to address the following questions:

- *What are the trade-offs between growth and poverty reduction for various development options? In particular, what are the implications for growth of adopting a strategy focusing on production of staple foods, an approach that could potentially reduce poverty considerably?*
- *What changes in policy, governance, and public investment are required to make Ghanaian farmers more competitive globally and regionally? How can opportunities to diversify their crop production be expanded?*
- *What are the linkages between various sectors, and how can they be exploited in both rural and urban areas to provide livelihood opportunities for the nearly 20 percent of the population that is unemployed?*
- *How can agriculture be developed and poverty reduced without unduly increasing the pressure on natural resources and the environment, especially when the livelihoods of the poor depend so much on sustainable use of these resources?*



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### THE GHANA STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM (GSSP)

GSSP is a research, communication, and capacity-strengthening Program to build the capabilities of researchers, administrators, policy-makers, and members of civil society in Ghana to develop and implement agricultural and rural development strategies. With a commitment from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Ghana to provide core funding over several years and a mandate to develop a multi-donor-funded Program, IFPRI launched GSSP as a partnership between Ghana and its development partners. IFPRI is working with these stakeholders to generate information, improve dialogue, and sharpen decisionmaking processes essential for effective formulation and implementation of development strategies. GSSP informs stakeholders on the role of agriculture and rural development in the broader economic and policy context, in line with the emphasis placed on agriculture in Ghana's Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy. GSSP supports the development and implementation of a system to monitor and evaluate progress toward achieving Ghana's growth and poverty reduction targets and the Millennium Development Goals.

#### Program Objectives

The Program aims to

- develop and implement a research and capacity-building agenda that addresses knowledge and capacity gaps concerning effective agricultural and rural development strategies;
- improve the information and knowledge base required to develop and implement strategies through better data standards, integration of information across sectors, and improved management of knowledge;
- strengthen the analytical capacity of Ghanaian researchers and institutions by adopting innovative collaborative arrangements that take advantage of complementarities;
- stimulate and invigorate policy discussions by popularizing innovative policy analysis tools, such as economywide modeling, spatial analysis using geographic information systems, investment priority setting, and cutting-edge governance research; and
- strengthen policymaking processes, stimulate policy dialogue, and communicate research outcomes to relevant stakeholders.

## STRATEGIC POLICY RESEARCH AREAS

- **Pro-poor growth:** study the growth and poverty dynamics of the Ghanaian economy and identify macroeconomic challenges and opportunities for agricultural and rural development and poverty reduction.
- **Markets and competitiveness:** investigate the competitiveness of Ghanaian farmers in international, regional, and domestic markets for various products, identify potential opportunities, and suggest policies and investments to support agribusiness development, particularly for the benefit of smallholders.
- **Pro-poor investment:** evaluate public investment options and the trade-offs between growth and poverty reduction inherent in them and examine options to finance the required investments.
- **Nonfarm and urban links:** examine sectors and policies that help create employment and investigate the role of the nonfarm economy and the linkages between urban and rural areas
- **Natural resources:** suggest development strategies to achieve pro-poor growth that also leads to sustainable management of natural resources.
- **Decentralization and rural public services:** identify opportunities to effectively decentralize supply of public services to local governments and examine institutional arrangements to build accountability to the poor.

## GSSP ACTIVITIES

GSSP is implementing the following long-term activities:

- Conducting policy-relevant research on the strategic themes identified, with appropriate partners and in a manner supportive of decisionmaking and strategy development in the country;
- Establishing a knowledge and information network to facilitate information sharing, knowledge synthesis, and dialogue on agricultural and rural development, and providing access to analytical tools;
- Supporting monitoring and evaluation of agricultural development by regularly analyzing the data generated to facilitate informed policy decisionmaking; and
- Institutionalizing informed decisionmaking and learning in government, research, and nongovernmental institutions through collaborative research, appropriate training, and access to information and analytical tools.

## COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

GSSP closely collaborates with policymakers, researchers, and other partners at the national and subnational levels who identify program priorities and guide its implementation. GSSP builds on existing work and capacities in Ghana by forming broad partnerships and networks with institutions and individuals in research, the private sector, civil society, and government.

A National Advisory Committee (NAC) composed of members from government, the research community, and the private sector has been set up to guide annual program priorities, review and evaluate progress, and facilitate collaborative linkages and partnerships in consultation with major partners. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning currently chairs the NAC. Other members include high-level representatives from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Office of the President, the Ghana Statistical Services, the National Development Planning Commission, the Bank of Ghana, the Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research of the University of Ghana–Legon, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and the Private Enterprise Foundation.

IFPRI's office in Ghana is housed at the International Water Management Institute on the compound of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Accra. GSSP's core program implementation team is composed of internationally and nationally recruited staff located in Accra and Washington, D.C. The core team works closely with program-affiliated staff (posted or seconded by relevant government departments) and a network of people associated with the national and international partners, as well as with IFPRI researchers around the world.

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### For more information:

[www.ifpri.org/themes/gssp.htm](http://www.ifpri.org/themes/gssp.htm)