



Regreening Africa Ghana News

2019 edition



Brief from Project Manager

Over the years, acute and prolonged dry seasons, overgrazing, rampant bush fires and indiscreet felling of trees have translated to increased decline in forest cover, loss of indigenous biodiversity and decreased soil fertility.

Thankfully, simple restoration practices promoted by the Regreening Africa project are improving livelihoods, food security and resilience to climate change for smallholder farmers in Garu Tempane, Bawku and Mion Districts.

The two implementing partners, World Vision Ghana and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) made giant strides in the second year of implementation. With technical support from World Agroforestry (ICRAF), the ambitious target of restoring 90,000 hectares may be within reach. The team attributes progress to the following approaches:

1. Direct intervention with communities in three districts

This approach comprises of training farmers and

farmer groups on regreening approaches and introducing the same to new members and communities in targeted districts.

2. Interactions with policy makers through multi-stakeholder and advocacy campaigns

The second approach encourages champion farmers and community leaders to communicate the benefits enjoyed since adopting regreening approaches to policy makers. This is to facilitate advancement of environmental policies to favour land restoration, especially with beneficiaries in mind. An example is a multi-level stakeholder workshop held in Tamale from 26 to 28 November 2018, courtesy of ICRAF's SHARED (Stakeholder Engagement to Risk-Informed Decision Making) team.

Currently, 16,863 hectares are under various forms of restoration through agroforestry and Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration approaches, with 7,495 households adopting. However, the team needs to create awareness of these approaches to have as many stakeholders and communities on board. This way, the set targets albeit ambitious, is achievable.



Participants in Gwena discuss where to place photos illustrating household duties based on gender norms in the community. Photo: World Agroforestry

GENDER EQUITY LEADS TO EQUALITY

In the first quarter of year two (2018), World Vision Ghana in partnership with ICRAF held a training workshop on Social and Gender Dynamics, and their Importance for Improving Resilience and Livelihoods. The training helped build capacity of local stakeholders engaged in development and conservation programmes that are gender and socially responsive. Facilitated by Ana Maria, a gender specialist from ICRAF, participants took up roles of ideal men and women to help contextualise societal expectations.

Extensive, and often intensive discussions on these social constructs distilled tangible ways to be more responsive to gender issues:

- For community forestry, participants proposed several actions. First, bush fires are an annual and serious problem in northern Ghana. More sensitization and training undertaken with women will empower them to prevent, control



Emilie Smith Dumont engages a participant on the role play exercise. Photo: World Agroforestry

and manage burning. Second, policies granting women access to land and natural resources are crucial, starting at community level.

- For local governance, instead of inviting chiefs, heads of departments or their representatives to public meetings and paying no attention to how many of these were male or female, women's groups should be expressly invited.
- For agricultural productivity, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture needs to train more female agricultural extension officers to ensure there are appropriate staff to provide female farmers with the advice they need. Second, the Ministry should a) ensure women

Playing a woman for me was 'tiring'. I felt 'shamed' by the need to listen to a domineering husband

'It is very interesting being head of the household. Even if you don't tell the truth, you have the power.'

These workshops initiated a dialogue in the communities around how gender norms and roles, which usually go unquestioned, may be limiting people from making the best use of the resources they have available. This dialogue helps them realize these norms can change, to improve their well-being and resilience.

**Ana Maria Paez Valencia
Social Scientist, Gender**



Gloria Adeyiga (left), Ana Maria Paez (centre) and Emilie Smith Dumont present research findings to the community of Gwenua, northern Ghana. Photo: World Agroforestry



A farmer clearing shrubs on her farm. Photo: Jason Amoo

manage at least some demonstration plots set-up in districts; and b) ensure women have access to farm inputs, such as high-quality germplasm and, indeed, also become leaders in the field.

- For access to market and value chains, the workshop proposed that women's production and processing groups need help to build their sustainability through village savings and loans groups. This will allow them to mobilize funds to invest in labour-saving technologies, such as threshers. Second, women should take up leadership roles in community-based organizations.

Out of the recommendations given, the project has managed to act on three so far. Next steps are to work with policy makers to legislate appropriate policies that will grant women access to productive land as well as increase the number female agricultural extension agents. Participants hailed from the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Tree AID, Forest Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), CRS, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, District Planning Officers from Garu, Bawku West and Kassena Nankana West Districts.



Lead farmers undergoing practical training on pruning. Photo: Seth Frimpong

SCALING-UP REGREENING PRACTICES IN BAWKU WEST AND GARU-TEMPANE DISTRICTS

240 male and 240 female farmers from Bawku West and Garu Tempane districts took part in an FMNR training facilitated by World Vision Ghana, Centre for Community Development Initiative (CODI) and the Department of Agriculture. Taking an options by context approach, community needs tabled at the training helped identify factors contributing to tree loss in the country. This way, species prioritised by farmers are backed-up by technical expertise to nurture trees that regenerate naturally.

Expressing great joy from the fulfilling training, these lead farmers committed to reach out to other farmers in their respective communities and beyond. Resourced with farm tools such as wellington boots, cutlasses, pruning knives, hand gloves and sickles, restoration approaches promoted by the project will scale-up in the implementation sites.



A farmer clearing grass on an FMNR farm. Photo: May Muthuri



Participants pose for a group photo. Photo: Joan Baxter



Mieke (ICRAF's SHARED team member) facilitating a photo bazaar session. Photo: Edward Akunyagra

Restoring Landscapes for Resilient Livelihoods

A two-day workshop spearheaded by the SHARED team helped: review evidence and benefits associated with integrating trees in agro-sylvo-pastoral landscapes; identify opportunities for taking greening practices to scale; develop policies to enable this process and collectively develop a roadmap for scaling.

Stakeholders also considered underlying causes of degradation, reviewed evidence in the form of a poster bazaar and looked at

how the project could contribute to the Government's commitment to meet the 2 million Bonn Challenge, as well as the African Forest Landscape Initiative (AFR100) target.

The workshop brought together National and Regional Government officials, donors, NGOs, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and farmer representatives including representatives of the Wildlife Division, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), Savanna Agriculture Research



Patrick Worms of ICRAF Facilitating a panel session on the effects of by-laws in preventing bush fires. Photo: Edward Akunyagra

Institute (SARI), ICRAF The Forestry Commission (FC), Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS), Chiefs, World Vision Ghana, CRS, Organisation for Indigenous Initiatives and Sustainability (ORGIIS) and Economics of Land Degradation (ELD). Others included University for Development Studies, Nyankpala Campus, CIFOR, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Northern Development Authority (NDA), Tree AID, Business Advisory Centre, West Africa Forest Farm Interface (WAFFI) Project and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The following [declaration](#) made at the conference serves as a reminder to each stakeholder of the role they have to play in restoring Ghana's degraded landscapes.

Tamale Declaration on Restoring Landscapes and Improving Livelihoods in Northern Ghana

“ We, the participants of the multi-stakeholder workshop, 'Restoring landscapes for resilient livelihoods in northern Ghana', do hereby declare that there is an urgent need for the Northern Development Authority (NDA), MMDAs (Metro, Municipal and District Assemblies), traditional authorities, and the Ministries of Land and Natural Resources (MLR), of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), and of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), to develop and implement a comprehensive Regreening Plan that integrates management of trees, crops and livestock, and to allocate a budget and incentive systems to support the plan, thereby helping to restore landscapes and improve livelihoods in northern Ghana. ”



Participants interacting with the chief and people of Saaka in a community FMNR Field. Photo: Seth Frimpong



Chief of Saaka welcoming participants to his community. Photo: Seth Frimpong

PARTNERS EMBARK ON LEARNING VISIT TO FMNR SITES

World Vision Ghana organised a one-day field visit to Saaka community, an FMNR learning hub. The visit brought together a total of 60 participants made up of farmers and partners including planning officers of Garu Tempene, Bawku West and Kasena Nankana district, CIFOR, EPA, Tree AID, FORIG, CRS, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, WAFFI project and ICRAF.

The visit created a platform for partners and

farmers to gain insights on successes and challenges associated with undertaking FMNR techniques. Excited and motivated by the visit, participants expressed confidence to replicate what they learnt in their districts. The Upper East Regional Director of Agriculture, Mr. Francis Ennor, impressed with what he saw, promised to encourage his District Directors to include FMNR concepts in their interventions to help restore degraded lands.



S4T Members keenly discussing greening practices at a weekly savings meeting. Photo: Seth Frimpong

SAVINGS FOR TRANSFORMATION



12 communities in Bawku West District embraced the Savings for Transformation initiative which focuses on mobilizing rural communities to develop a habit of saving. This makes it possible for communities to have timely access to micro finance at affordable rates. The strategy is also contributing towards the massive scaling-up approach of the project, because, the more an S4T groups grows, the wider the spread of greening practices. At least 60 Village Loans and Saving Associations (VLSA) groups are up and running.

S4T Members engaging in discussions with the project team on how to maximise the initiative for greater results. Photo: May Muthuri



Davis Wamawungo of WV Australia participating in a tree planting during visit to Ghana. Photo: Edward Akunyagra

VISIT BY DAVIS WAMAWUNGO

Davis Wamawungo, the Australia Grants Manager for East and West Africa, paid an official visit to Ghana on 15 to 22 July 2019. The manager participated in several activities including meeting with project staff and Bawku West and Garu District Assembly leadership.



Women farmers trying their hands-on grafting in the Nsoja nursery. Photo: Ali Yaro



Members of Nsoja Community having an interactive session with NOCC members during a monitoring visit Photo: Adnan Abubakar

LESSON SHARING WORKSHOP IN THE UPPER EAST REGION

A multi-stakeholder lesson sharing workshop held in Bolgatanga in November 2018, focused on how to scale-up socially inclusive and livelihood activities in restoration efforts. The workshop fostered a common understanding of opportunities and constraints aimed at improving the management of agricultural, pastoral and forest land uses.

It also defined restoration strategies such as designing specific pro-poor practices that can effectively support livelihoods of smallholder farmers. This way, the 39 men and 11 women in attendance can easily manage their natural resources and in return diversify their income and improve food security.



PLA session with men focus group at Bagmak. Photo: Philip Atiim



GHANA NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE TRAINS FIRE VOLUNTEERS

Ghana National Fire Service trained 480 fire volunteers from Bawku West and Garu Tempene Districts from 14 to 21 February 2019. The participants received training on construction of fire belts to control spread of bush fires on farmlands and forest reserves, as well as prevention and preservation of natural vegetative cover amidst the challenges. Insights shared on the hazards of these fires will boost agricultural production.



Fire fighting Simulation exercise during fire management training for fire volunteers Photo: Seth Frimpong



Distribution of Farm tools to lead farmers and fire Volunteers in the Bawku West District. Photo: Seth Frimpong

1,050 FARMERS RECEIVE TRAINING ON COMPOST MAKING



An Agricultural extension Agent facilitating a training on compost making in the Bawku West District. Photo: Julius Agolsi



Patrice Savadogo demonstrating preparation of soil compost for nursery establishment to participants. Photo: Edward Akunyagra

649 male and 401 female farmers benefited from a week-long training on composting in February 2019. The training meant to educate farmers on alternative means of improving soil fertility to increase food production and restore degraded lands. The training illuminated techniques to replenish lost soil nutrients, maintain and protect well-functioning soils. This took place in 12 communities each in the Bawku West and Garu Tempene districts from 15 February 2019 to 22 March 2019.



Community level interaction at Tudiriga with community members during JLRM visit in the Garu Tempame Photo: May Muthuri

A combined team of ICRAF component leads, WV, CRS, Forestry Services division and the district assembly embarked on a two-day monitoring visit to project beneficiary communities in Garu-Tempame and the Mion districts. Interacting with farmers brought out successes and challenges faced, as well as lessons taken up for smooth implementation. Farmers also got tips that would be helpful in circumventing the challenges.

A three-day workshop subsequently held in Tamale helped evaluate progress made and fashion out modalities to overcome challenges witnessed in the field. ICRAF used the opportunity to discuss the baseline reports with partners and provide clarity on what leveraging meant. Interacting with visually appealing data that would otherwise seem complicated, clarified gaps needing additional efforts from partners. Since then, there has been significant improvement as evidenced by successes reported in year three.

GHANA HOSTS JOINT LEARNING FIELD VISIT WITH PMU



Susan Chomba addressing community members at Tudiriga during JLRM visit in Ghana. Photo: Jason Amoo



Third National Oversight and Coordinating Committee Meeting hosted by CRS in Tamale

NOCC MONITORING VISIT TO CRS IMPLEMENTATION SITE

The National Oversight and Coordination Committee (NOCC) held a two-day monitoring visit to assess the projects' progress. The committee visited CRS implementation sites on 22 May 2019 in Mion district. This helped assess the extent of community mobilization, level of engagement and technical guidance needed for staff and beneficiaries.



A cross view of an FMNR field at Kpatua in the Garu-Tempene district. Photo: Bukari Salifu

The second day devoted reviewing semi-annual reports, work plans and budgets provided a platform for the committee to give strategic backstopping. As an action point, World Vision and CRS developed a working document detailing the support required from the Northern Development Authority (NDA) and Peasant Farmers Association to achieve the projects' leveraging targets.



Country representative for CRS doing ceremonial tree planting during NOCC visit at Nsoja. Photo: Philip Atiim

FARMER TO FARMER LEARNING VISIT



Tree planting training for lead farmer groups at the community. Photo: Seth Frimpong



Patrice Savadogo providing technical backstopping to the Regreening Africa monitoring team and community members at Kanimo village in Mion district. Photo: Edward Akunyagra

World Vision Ghana with its local technical implementing partners organized a one-day learning visit for lead farmers and fire volunteers in Bawku West and Garu-Tempene districts. The visit organized to promote learning and networking among lead farmers and fire volunteers exposed them to challenges and success in undertaking FMNR practices.

MoFA and forestry staff took the opportunity to train farmers on the importance of trees in combating climate change and boosting crop and animal production. 150 trainees also participated in a species matching exercise to identify the right tree for the right place.



Women group filling empty water Sachets for seedling raising. Photo: Kingsley Ofori



Non-timber forest products Photo: Philip Atiim

TECHNIQUES TO HANDLING SHEA TREE

75 participants benefited from an ICRAF Sahel supported training of trainer's workshop from 13 to 16 May 2019. The training focused on the Shea tree, specifically nursery establishment, propagation and improvement by grafting, on-farm management techniques for combating parasites and improving production. With a mix of theory and practical sessions, the four-day training aimed at building capacity and creating knowledge exchange avenues for technical and implementing partners, as well as lead farmers. Participants also hailed from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Forestry Commission, fire service, private tree nursery managers and Presbyterian Agricultural Station (PAS)-Garu.

GHANA IN THE NEWS



The Tamale Declaration: a regreening plan for northern Ghana

An international workshop has called for an integrated plan to regreen the region. The climax of the international workshop held late November 2018 in Tamale, the capital of Ghana's...

[Forest World](#) / [Last Update](#) / Dec 20, 2018



[Stakeholders call for expedited action to scale up tree cover in northern Ghana](#)

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