



Agro-Source Project

Background

Even though smallholder farmers contribute powerfully to Ghana’s food bank and economy, they are unable to access quality inputs and even when they can access them, they lack the know-how and expertise on how to use these inputs effectively. It is common for rural smallholder farmers to travel very long distances just to buy agricultural inputs. This has made it virtually impossible for smallholder farmers, especially women, to increase their productivity, which hampers their chances to improve their livelihoods. The Agro-Source Project is anonymously funded and is aligned with CARE’s Food and Nutrition Security signature program “She Feeds the World” (SFTW) which contributes to CARE’s global aim of helping 50 million people improve their food and nutrition security and climate resilience by 2025.

Goal & Approaches

The Agro-Source Project aims to improve the productivity of 30,000 smallholder women farmers in Northern Ghana through increased availability, access, and use of high-quality agricultural inputs by 2020. It promotes entrepreneurial opportunities for women and youth through strong partnership with the private sector. Agro-Source promotes agro-input dealerships, utilization of agro-inputs, engages smallholder women farmers as seed growers, and improves gender responsiveness.

Agro-Source Project

July 2018 – December 2020

Key Activities

Promotes entrepreneurial opportunities for women and youth through strong partnerships with the private sector.

Geographical Coverage

Upper East Region (Garu, Tempene & Bawku West districts) & Upper West Region (Lambussie & Namdom districts)

Donor

Anonymous



Promoting agri-input dealership

The project collaborates with private sector agri-input dealers to improve distribution channels and timely access to quality agricultural inputs at competitive price.



Promoting utilization of agri-inputs

The project enhances smallholder women farmers’ knowledge on the utilization of quality production input



Engaging smallholder women farmers as seed growers

Increase smallholder women farmers’ access to certified seeds through community seed production system



Improving gender responsiveness

Create enabling environment for women in agri-input systems through improving gender responsiveness of private sector partners



A trained agro-input dealer, Dorcas Ayers, in her shop in Bawku District @ CARE Ghana 2020



A trained seed out-grower in Garu District shows off his healthy crops @ CARE Ghana 2020



Ayishetu Mahama depositing her savings during her VSLA meeting @ CARE Ghana 2020

Training and Access to Inputs Leads to Positive Changes for Ayishetu Mahama

Farming has been Ayishetu Mahama’s (47) primary livelihood for more than 25 years to support herself and her six children. As a member of a CARE-supported Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in her community, Ayishetu had the opportunity to participate in several educational activities carried out by Samiu Takai, an agro-input dealer trained by Agro-Source. Mr. Samiu taught her about the importance of planting improved seeds, optimum plant population, timely weed control and the appropriate use of agrochemicals. Ayishetu was also able to purchase quality seeds and the appropriate agrochemicals to control weeds on her farm. Learning to proper application of fertilizer and agrochemicals has increased her efficiency and minimizes waste.

“As a result of the information I received from Mr. Samiu, my yield and income have increased. I never imagined it would be like this. I will make sure I work closely with him to learn more,” said Ayishetu when talking about agro-input dealer services. She added, “I have been able to pay the annual national health insurance (NHIS) subscription

fees for two of my children with ease. I did not have to borrow [money] like I have done in the past.” Ayishetu expressed her gratitude to CARE and encourages other farmers to seek agricultural extension and other information from the trained agro-input dealers.