

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

Completion Report



CFM-SPD007/10Rev.1(F)

Enrichment of young forest plantations with selected NTFPs for livelihood

Title: Enrichment of young forest plantations with selected NTFPs for livelihood improvement and support of forest fringe communities in

Atwima Mponua Disctr

Serial Number: 1

Host Government: GH

Executing Agency: Rural Development and Youth Association (RUDEYA)

Starting date of the project: 03/02/2011

Project Duration: 24

Completion Report

Version:1.0

Date:09/05/2013

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RMSC is the branch of Ghana Forestry Commission in charge of the implementation of its policies in the field in Ghana.

RMSC and RUDEYA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13 December 2010, in Kumasi, Ashanti Region, Ghana.

Technical Staff / Scientific Staff:

No Staff

Disclaimer:



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Disclaimer

Executive Summary:

THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

i.This is the completion report on the project number CFM-SFD 007/10 Rev (FC) implemented by RUDEYA with assistance from Forestry commission / Resource Management Support Centre and funded by International Tropical Organization (ITTO). The two year project was implemented in the Atwima Mponua District under the Nkawie forest district of Ghana.

ii.The overall objectives of the project have been the following:

To establish sustainable Community Forest Management Enterprises (CFME) to reduce rural poverty through improved alternative livelihood options, reduced deforestation and land degradation, climate regulation and soil fertility management in more than 3 years old Taungya plantations.

The specific Objective:

To initiate and establish group forest enterprises for short to long term management of forest plantations using participatory approach.

iii.The expected outputs to be achieved from the project:

Farmers participating in the project have their land tenure and forest resources rights finalized by the Forestry Commission and Forest Service Division.

Farmers adopted best practices in producing NTFPs

150 farmers of the project will implement business management skills

iv.The main results achieved:

The project with legal support from project legal consultant has captured and compiled in both electronic and hard copy versions data of six hundred (600) MTS farmers using the computerized form that was provided by the IT centre of the Forestry commission/RMSC. What is left is that the Forestry commission makes administrative arrangement and adds the lease and benefit sharing agreement document for the final signing. This is a major achievement because the joint signing of this agreement will give the farmers additional income when their trees are harvested and sold. It will also confer on them, tree and tenure rights.

One hundred and fifty (150) Taungya Farmers have been trained and gained skills and now cultivating NTFPs such as Grains of Paradise and Black Pepper. Of this number, 50 have been trained and supported with implements to undertake honey production whilst 60 and 40 Taungya farmers are engaged in Grains of paradise and Black pepper cultivation respectively.

One hundred and fifty (150) farmers, who are engaged in GOP, BP and honey production, have been

Executive Summary:

trained in simple business management practices and basic financial records/book keeping.

v. Most relevant outcomes of the project implementation

The Forestry Commission has learned useful lessons from the MTS farmers data capturing processes of the project and based on it over 10,000 Taungya farmers in the project areas (Nkawie forest district) have been covered using our model. That was under the support and sponsorship of Food and Agriculture Organization.

The Forestry Commission and the Resource Management Support Centre have expressed the interest to upscale this project to other MTS areas. They have demonstrated this by keenly participating in joint project monitoring exercises of the project and encouraged the EA to do step by step documentation of the project implementation processes and lessons for up-scaling and replication.

One hundred and fifty (150) Taungya farmers are back into their plantations again and are now operating on their NTFP enterprises in-situ in the plantations. They are engaging in good forest management practices including weeding in and around of their plantations, practicing tree tending and management, creation of fire belts to prevent bush fires and checking against chain saw operations in their plantations and the forest reserves.

The 150 Taungya farmers have integrated the 3 key NTFPs (Beekeeping, GOP and BP) into their plantations and are adopting best practices in cultivation of their NTFPs. Although the project has not reached income generation level yet the stakeholders including the 150 Taungya farmers perceive their forest enterprises as promising.

The NGOs who are working with RUDEYA and ASNAPP on the Sustainable Forest Management platforms such as Kumasi Wood Cluster, National Working Group for forest certification etc have engaged some of RUDEYA technical staff to sensitize the communities in their operational areas on possibility in replicating and adopting the project model.

vi. The following are the project Lessons:

Integration of the NTFPs has motivated the farmers and brought them back into the plantations.

Other MTS farmers outside the project as well as surrounding community members have shown interest to replicate the new NTFPs farming intervention.

Farmers now desist from destructive environmental practices such as bush fire, encroachment and cutting down of trees on their plantation after realising they can continue to benefit from the plantations.

The MTS will be better managed if FC/RMSC supports the farmers to have access to medium-term alternative livelihoods.

vii. The following are the project Recommendations:

The EA should write a letter of recommendation to the FC and encourage them to speed up the signing of the Benefit Sharing Agreement due the Modified Taungya System (MTS) farmers under the project.

Forestry Commission should involve forest communities (MTS farmers) in all current forest enterprises e.g. harvesting of thinning materials in the plantation. This will provide incomes to the farmers and serve as an incentive for them to continue their forest management work.

Executive Summary:

There should be the possibilities of undertaking a cost benefit analysis of the various NTFPs.

The EA should respond to the call of the project replicators by including more farmers in the project during the second phase of the project.

The EA and ITTO should make it possible to carry out a survey on the future suitability of the NTFPs in the Plantations.

The stakeholders suggested that should the project gains be sustained and the medium to long-term objective of the project achieved, the second phase of the Project should be made possible.

Context:

1. Project identification

1.1 Context

i. The social, economic and environmental context and the project location:

The area is the Atwima Mponua District with a total land area of (894km²). Within this district over 50% is made up of forest reserves. These are Asenanyo Reserves (228) and Tano Ofin Reserves (402km²). Part of Tano Ofin Forest Reserve extends to Ahafo Ano North District. The two forest reserves are joined together making it one of the biggest forest reserves in Ghana and they are located in the high forest zone. Tano Ofin is an upland evergreen tropical forest and a globally significant high biodiversity area (IUCN 1995). About 330km² in aggregate are timber producing areas containing many of the timber species in Ghana, whilst another 300km² are inaccessible for commercial logging due to rolling mountains and wetlands. The two reserves are important for commercial timber and environmental services including biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration in the project area.

Geographic location

The Atwima Mponua District is located in the south-western part of the Ashanti Region covering an area of approximately 894.15 square kilometers with Nyinahin as its capital. It lies between longitude 2o00W and 2o32W and latitude 6o75N and 6o75N.

The 2000 National Population Census put the Atwima Mponua District population at 108,235 made up of 55,719 males and 52,516 females. With an average growth rate of 3.6% the District is estimated to have had a total population of 127,717 in December 2005. The District has higher growth rate compared to the Regional rate of 3.4%. The high growth rate may be due to an increase in migration, the creation of the District and the improved road link to Kumasi. The District however has a high youthful population which has implications on issues as well-being, education, health, environment, sanitation and security and safety.

As a typical rural economy, agriculture and forestry dominate the local economy. The results of the Socio- economic survey conducted towards the preparation of this Plan and depicted in the figures above show that about 79% of the labour force in engaged in this occupation as compared to about 52% at the National Level (about 61% for Ashanti Region). The commerce sector ranks second in importance to Agriculture and Forestry in the District. In 2000, about 3.7% of the labour force was in

Context:

this sector as against 13% in 2005 followed by the industry 6% and last 2.0% for services. Improvement in infrastructural facilities such as construction of marketing centres, extension of electricity, improvements in roads, etc in the District are responsible for more inhabitants.

Relevance: Conformity with ITTOs objectives and priorities

This project contributes to empowerment of forest dependent communities for the development of timber and non timber forest products for community forest management enterprises in Article 1 (paragraph C, Q and R) and of ITTO policy objectives and Expected outcome 5: Tropical forest resource better secured; sub-sections E and F of Action Plan 2008-2011.

The project contributes to sustainable forest development and to poverty alleviation by providing medium term benefits spanning a period of about 20 years in the management of forest plantations (objective C). The projects achieves this by promoting better use of NTFPs through capacity building of Taungya farmers and providing and providing a forum for cooperation of relevant institutions to play active roles in NTFP production, processing and marketing (Objective Q). Our project provides a legal framework for recognition of land and forest resources rights to strengthen forestdependent indigenous and local communities in achieving sustainable forest management (Objective R). These activities contribute immensely to ITTO Expected outcome 5 on sections E and F: Tropical forest resource better secured.

1.2.2 Relevance to Ghanas policies:

The Forest and Wildlife Policy of 1994 is central to Ghanas forest development endeavours.

The aim of this (1994) Policy Document is the conservation and sustainable development of Ghanas forest and wildlife resources to ensure adequate environmental quality and perpetual flow of optimum benefits to all segments of society. From the 1994 Forest and Wildlife Policy Document, the following sectional quotations from the document appear immediately relevant for this forest livelihoods and enterprise project:

Section 3.2.1 ...declares access rights of the people for maintaining their livelihoods.

Section 3.2.3 ...provides of strong incentives to encourage responsible use of forests as a prerequisite for sustainable resources management.

Section 3.2.6 calls for the integration of traditional methods of resource management into national strategies .

Section 3.2.10 states the intention to transform the nations forest industry into a low volume, high value business (which obviously enhances the economic perspectives of small, medium-sized forest enterprises and endeavours.)

Section 3.2.15 emphasizes the importance of comprehensive involvement of local people in matters concerning their welfare ... so as to ensure overall development of a decentralized participatory democracy in forestry.

Our project addresses some of the objectives in 1994 Forest and Wildlife policy and current action plans of the Forestry Commission of Ghana:

Manage and enhance Ghanas permanent estate of forest and wildlife resources so as to ensure the preservation of vital soil and water resources, conservation of biological diversity, as well as a sustainable production of domestic and commercial produce.

Promote the development of viable and efficient forest-based industries, particularly in secondary and tertiary processing, so as to fully utilize timber and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs) including wildlife resources that satisfy both domestic and international demand at competitive prices.

Context:

Promote public awareness and active involvement of rural people in forestry and wildlife conservation so as to maintain life-sustaining systems, preserve scenic areas, enhance the potential for recreation, tourism and wealth creating opportunities

Origin and Problem:

Origin and problem

I. The origin and the main problems addressed by the project

RUDEYA (NGO involved in rural youth employment in forestry development) is facilitating the registration of 600 Taungya farmers in the Nkawie Forest District with the Forestry Commission. This will entitle them to long term lease and partnership for reforestation and timber plantations development. In the process of this facilitation, RUDEYA has organized series of workshops to discuss livelihood options, sustainable forest uses and adaptation to climate change for the local farmers. As part of an on-going discussions within this project, more than 150 Taungya farmers have decided to integrate three Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) namely beekeeping, grains of paradise, and black pepper into their timber plantations and reforestation programmes. RUDEYA undertook market survey and market chain analysis on the 3 selected NTFPs (Appendix 1). The results showed that the tree NTFP have high productivity and demand for both the local and export markets. RUDEYA has established working relationships with Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products (ASNAPP) for NTFPs development and marketing; Rural Enterprises Project/Business Advisory Centre (REP/BAC) to facilitate the development of group enterprises for small farm producers; the Forestry Commission of Ghana to provide the rural youth with forest-business enterprise. This has motivated the farmers and RUDEYA and other stakeholders to use NTFPs production, processing and marketing as livelihood projects. The strategy is to build capacity among local forest communities for group enterprise development using NTFPs under secured forest land tenure arrangements. The thrust of the project is to use timber plantations and reforestation projects to attract loans and investment capital from private and public sources through the promotion of forest business enterprises.

Problem Analysis

The key problem to be addressed by the project is the inadequate capacity of forest communities to manage forest plantations and develop community enterprises on a sustainable basis. The Taungya system provides short term benefits within the first two years in the form of food crops and long-term benefits in the form of the sale of timber. However, the medium term benefits spanning a period of about 20 years remain unclear and difficult to obtain (Bodegrom et al, 2009). This problem results in increased poverty in the forest fringe communities and unsustainable management of forest plantations. Annex 3 (p. 25) shows the key problem, causes and effects. The main causes of the above problem in the project area are:

a. Insecure tenure of forest land and resource use rights: The degraded forest lands have been allocated to the farmers by the Forest Services Division and the farmers have actually done the reforestation over the last five years. However, the two parties have not been able to sign the relevant agreements because the farmers lacked the requisite capacity and training for group formation and other documentary processes at the community level as requested by the Forest Commission. Land title and resource rights are essential to the development of forest based (NTFPS) enterprises.

Origin and Problem:

b. Non-inclusion of NTFPs to provide enhanced livelihood and CFE: The target farmers lack capacity building in technical, business and organizational skills needed for small scale NTFPs producers. Technology know how on the selected NTFPs is non-existent among the target farmers, but RUDEYA and ASNAPP are presently assisting some farmers in the cultivation of these NTFPs in other Districts in Ghana. The experiences and potentials already acquired will be used to assist the target farmers in this project.

c. Weak organization of communities and lack of business management skills: The farmers also lack business and organizational skills needed for the development and promotion of small farmer producer groups. Each farmer operates as an individual Taungya farmer and it becomes difficult for agri-business institutions to deal with them individually. Tackling the above problems has the potential capacity for ensuring sustainable forest management by providing the farmers extra sustainable income from sustainable management of the forest. RUDEYA has knowledge in group enterprise development for small farmers and will also work in collaboration with the Rural Enterprises Project to build the capacity of the beneficiary farmers.

Project objectives and implementation strategy:

Project objectives and implementation strategy

Objectives

i. Development objective and impact indicators

To establish sustainable Community Forest Management Enterprises (CFME) to reduce rural poverty through improved alternative livelihood options, reduced deforestation and land degradation, climate regulation and soil fertility management in more than 3 years old taungya plantations.

The long-term impact indicators are:

By 2015, land degradation and deforestation will be reduced.

By 2013, average income levels of Taungya farmers increased by 30%.

By 2012, a pilot community forest enterprises operational.

Specific objective and outcome indicators

To initiate and establish group forest enterprises for short to long term management of forest plantations using participatory approach.

Outcome indicators

600 Taungya farmers from 10 communities have their land tenure and access to forest resource agreements signed.

150 Taungya farmers selected from 10 communities trained in NTFP skills and supplied with NTFP

Project objectives and implementation strategy:

production materials.

Pilot projects on three NTFPs (Beekeeping, black pepper, and GOP) implemented as CFE development.

Three market outlets established between beekeeping, black pepper and GOP farmers and private enterprises.

100 project beneficiary farmers adopt sustainable forest management practices including forest fire control measures, tree tending and management.

ii. Project implementation strategy

The project strategies used was capacity building among local forest communities for group enterprise development using NTFPs under secured forest land tenure arrangements. Therefore, the strong collaboration with all stakeholders will be sustained through constant dialogue and participation at farmer workshops.

Participatory planning, implementation and monitoring: Various stakeholders including representatives from FC, FSD, Taungya farmers, CBOs, the district assembly and research institutions will be held to a days workshop in each of the districts to examine how NTFPs can be successfully be integrated into forest management to reduce poverty among Taungya farmers.

Strengthening of community organizations: The TF will be put in groups into groups in order to build their capacity on technology transfer, business skills, marketing and groups enterprises development.

Capacity: Business capacity skills will be built among individual and groups of Taungya farmers. Capacity management teams in the areas of beekeeping, Grains of Paradise, and Black pepper production will be instituted. Capacity building will be through workshops and on the job training. Farmers will be allowed to elect their Product Committees Members (PCM). The PCM will serve as an advocacy group and will also serve as a link for communicating to the group. Technical services: The PCM will be supported with Technical and a Resource person. The PCM and the technical group will monitor the activities. The following will be monitored:

Beekeeping: No of beehives per farmer. Tree species under which beehives have been placed, harvesting schedule, quantity of processed honey, honey quality and income. Grains of paradise and Black pepper: No of seedlings distributed, growth rate, yield, Quantity sold.

Land and forest resources rights: No of farmers with certified legal forest resources rights; number of tree plants on land, age and height.

Pre-investment studies: To really access the impact the project will have on the livelihood of the Taungya farmers and their households and the community as a whole, there will be an initial study on the true poverty levels in the communities before the start of project.

Commercial Partnership, networks and marketing: For Taungya farmers to have the motivation for the continuous production of NTFPs there should be the available market. The project from its onset will seek to create a network between the farmers and some marketing agencies and some farmers already in the production of NTFPs.

Project Performance:

3. Project performance

I. Planned Project Outputs: The following have been the planned outputs of the project:

Output 1: Farmers participating in the project have their land tenure and forest resource rights finalized by Forestry Commission and Forest Services Department.

Project Performance:

Indicators: Within two months of the first year, 150 farmers have had certified land and forest resource rights.

Output 2: Farmers adopt best practices in producing NTFPs.

Indicators: Within 6-18 months farmers have acquired NTFP production skills; within 6-18 months farmers are equipped with NTFPs production facilities.

Output 3: Taungya farmers implement business management skills in forestry development.

Indicators: Within 3 - 6 months 150 Taungya farmers belong to one or more of 3 business management groups; Two NTFP marketing and processing agencies interact with farmers 9 months within the project; Within 12 - 18 months, 80% of target farmers earn income from NTFPs; Within 24 months the farmers have built their own financial mechanisms to support their own forest enterprises and long term timber plantations management.

3.1 Planned Activities of the project.

The following have been the planned activities of the project

Organize stakeholders meeting for consensus on ownership of land and forest resources

Organize workshop to discuss the lease agreements between FC on the rights and benefits of Taungya farmers

Finalize and secure legal backing for tenure and resource use arrangements for Taungya farmers

Develop policy briefs for the attention of policy makers

Organize training in best practices for beekeeping.

Train artisans to produce beehives/boxes

Provide gadgets for beekeeping

Provide technical support for honey harvesting and processing.

Exchange visits among beekeeping farmers

Organize training in best practices for GOP production

Assist farmers to set up GOP nurseries

Provide on-farm technical support

Exchange visits among GOP farmers

Organize training in best practices for BP production

Assist farmers to set up BP nurseries

Provide on-farm technical support.

Exchange visits among BP farmers

Organize basic business skills (Book keeping, profit and loss account and marketing)

Organize training on group enterprise development.

Organize processing and marketing training for NTFP farmers.

Provide linkages with marketing agencies, financial institutions and NTFP exporters

Reports preparation /Evaluation

3.2 Achieved Results the Project Outputs:

The following have been the achieved results in accordance with the projects expected Outputs:

Output 1: Farmers participating in the project have their land tenure and forest resource rights finalized by Forestry Commission and Forest Services Department.

The EA with legal support from project legal consultant has captured and compiled in both electronic and hard copy versions data of six hundred (600) MTS farmers using the computerized form that was

Project Performance:

provided by the IT centre of the Forestry commission/RMSC. The Forestry commission will add the lease and benefit sharing agreement document to the farmers information so provided and make administrative arrangement for the final signing.

Stakeholder meetings have been organized to build consensus in ownership of land and forest resources. It was agreed by all the participants in the meeting including the FC/ FSD/ RMSC, District Assemblies, Traditional authorities, Chiefs, and the Taungya farmers themselves that the farmers should be given the lease agreement on time to ensure their part ownership of the land and forest resources.

Workshops have been organized to discuss the benefit sharing agreement with the FC and the Taungya farmers. The role and responsibilities of each partner of the agreement were identified and agreement was reached to work at them particularly towards the signing of the benefit sharing agreement and how to improve the management practices of the plantation. The participants were drawn from the following stakeholder groups: Taungya Heads, FSD, RMSC, District Assemblies, Traditional authorities, and Odikro from the fringe communities.

Consultative meetings and lobbying exercises were held between RUDEYA and RMSC/FC with assistance from a legal expert. With the submission of the Six hundred (600) MTS farmers information to the Forestry Commission through RMSC, what is left is arrangement for an administrative protocols to officially sign the benefit sharing and the land lease agreement.

Output 2: Farmers adopt best practices in producing NTFPs.

One hundred and fifty (150) Taungya Farmers have been trained and gained skills and now cultivating NTFPs such as Grains of Paradise and Black Pepper. Of this number, 50 have been trained and supported with implements to undertake honey production whilst 60 and 40 Taungya farmers are engaged in Grains of paradise and Black pepper cultivation respectively.

Honey.

Training workshop has been organized for 50 farmers in best practices for beekeeping production. Fifty (50) MTS farmers have gained knowledge and skills, in honey production, processing and marketing and supported in cultivation and production of honey.

A training workshop has been organized for 10 carpenters (Artisans) selected from the project sites. The ten (10) Artisans were trained to provide a technical back-up to the farmers under the technical supervision of the beekeeping consultant. As a result, three of the trained artisans constructed 40 bee-hives for the beekeepers and earned incomes for themselves.

Hundred (100) bee hives, groves and smokers have been supplied to 50 beekeepers as a start up logistics for the honey enterprise. These honey producing gadgets were supplied to the MTS farmers in consultation and under technical services from the Technology Consultancy Centre (TCC) of KNUST, Kumasi

The 50 MTS farmers who are currently engaged in beekeeping have been provided with an on-farm technical support. For example, baiting of bee-hives and proper sitting of the bee hives. The farmers are back into their plantations, operating in-situ and engaging in honey production activities.

Project Performance:

Exchange visits have been organized for the 50 Bee keepers to the Asunafo North district on a visit to successful beekeepers. The rationale of the trip was for the farmers to have firsthand information and make important observations and lessons to improve their bee keeping business. In the course of the event, a successful honey producer was invited to make a presentation to the farmers.

GRAINS OF PARADISE (GOP)

A training workshop in best practices for GOP production has been organized for 60 farmers drawn from 4 FFCs. The farmers were taken through the economic importance and use of GOP, ecology/Areas where they are found, cultivation and maintenance, harvesting and post -harvesting practices, and marketing.

Sixty (60) GOP farmers have gained knowledge and skills in economic importance and use of GOP, ecology/areas where they are found, cultivation and maintenance, harvesting and post -harvesting practices, and marketing and supported in cultivation of GOP in their plantations.

A nursery centre has been established at Kramokrom to raise over 12,500 seedlings for the 60 GOP farmers in 4 forest fringe communities. The centre is being taken care of by 2 of the GOP farmers.

Twelve thousand (12,000) seedlings of GOP have been distributed to (60) farmers for planting in four (4) communities of Akwaboraso, Kramokrom/Sreso, Kwadwo Tire and Akentansu. Each of the farmers received 200 seedlings to be planted in their plantations. The result has been that 60 farmers have integrated GOP into thirty (30) acres of forest plantation.

An on-farming technical assistance and services have been provided to the 60 GOP farmers in 4 FFCs. The technical services provided to the farmers included the following: correct planting distance, lining and pegging, actual planting, farm management practices etc

The 60 GOP farmers have been provided with agronomic services and on-farm technical support by a consultant and RUDEYA staff.

Sixty (60) GOP farmers have made a trip to some successful GOP farmers in Asunafo. This created an interactive platform to the farmers to discuss best practices of GOP cultivation. The farmers gained first hand technical information and lessons on GOP farming from the trip.

Black Pepper (BP)

A training workshop in best practices for BP production has been organized for 40 farmers drawn from 3 FFCs Namely: Nyinanofu, Awaduwa and Nyamebekyere. The farmers were taken through the economic importance and use of Black pepper, ecology/Areas where they are found, cultivation and maintenance, harvesting and post -harvesting practices, and marketing. The work which aimed at impacting/// to the farmers knowledge and skills in black pepper farming was facilitated by the technical officers of RUDEYA and ASNAPP in collaboration with MoFA. Twenty (20) acres of plantations and have been put into cultivation of BP by 40 farmers.

Four thousand (4,000) seedlings of BP have been distributed to forty (40) farmers for planting in three (3) communities namely: Nyamebekyere, Awadua and Nyinanufu. Each of the farmers received 100 seedlings. In terms of gender, 40% of the BP farmers are female and they have all received their

Project Performance:

seedlings just as their compatriots males.

On-farming technical services involving appropriate planting distance of BP, lining and pegging, actual planting and farm management practices have been offered to the 40 BP farmers in 3 communities.

Exchange visit has been organized for 40 BP farmers. The farmers made a trip to Asunafo district to interact with the successful RUDEYA BP farmers there

Output 3: Taungya farmers implement business management skills in forestry development.

One hundred and fifty (150) farmers, who are engaged in GOP, BP and honey production, have been trained in simple business management practices and basic financial records/book keeping. This was to empower them with entrepreneurial skills in order to manage their NTFP enterprises in a profitable and sustainable manner.

Training on group enterprise development has been organized for the NTFP farmers and as a results three NTFP farmers groups namely Bee keeping, Grains of paradise and Black pepper have been formed.

One hundred and fifty (150) farmers have received capacity building on processing and marketing of the 3 key NTFPs. The farmers gained information, knowledge and skills in the processing and marketing of the 3 key NTFPs. This capacity building workshop was facilitated by the technical officers of ASNAPP and RUDEYA. ASNAPP have given assurance to the farmers on their future linkage to local marketing agencies and exporters.

Project Oertify that all your data has been saved.:

Thematic Programme:

Conformity with ITTOs objectives and priorities

This project contributes to empowerment of forest dependent communities for the development of timber and non timber forest products for community forest management enterprises in Article 1 (paragraph C, Q and R) and of ITTO policy objectives and Expected outcome 5: Tropical forest resource better secured; sub-sections E and F of Action Plan 2008-2011. .

The project contributes to sustainable forest development and to poverty alleviation by providing

Thematic Programme:

medium term benefits spanning a period of about 20 years in the management of forest plantations (objective C). The projects achieves this by promoting better use of NTFPs through capacity building of Taungya farmers and providing and providing a forum for cooperation of relevant institutions to play active roles in NTFP production, processing and marketing (Objective Q). Our project provides a legal framework for recognition of land and forest resources rights to strenghten forestdependent indigenous and local communities in achieving sustainable forest management (Objective R). These activities contribute immensely to ITTO Expected outcome 5 on sections E and F: Tropical forest resource better secured.

Assessment and Analysis:

5. Assessment and analysis

Section 5.

i. Project rationale and identification process

a. Project Rationale

With 100% completion of Output 1 and Output 2, significant progress has been achieved on the intended project rationale which is to secure land title and resource rights to the 600 Taungya farmers. For example, Six hundred (600) Taungya farmers have had their lease and benefit sharing agreements prepared for signing by the Forest Commission of Ghana. This is a major achievement because the joint signing of this agreement will give the farmers bona fide ownership, including tree and tenure rights. It also contributes to Ghana's Forestry Policy of Collaborative Management of Forests, where forest communities actively participate in forest management and are rewarded. This achievement is significant for sustainable forest management in general.

150 taungya farmers have successfully integrated NTFPs into their taughya plantations and moved in situ to practise good forest management practices. Hitherto and prior to project implementation, they had completely abandoned their farms, leading to bush fires and land encroachment, due to lack of motivation and economic incentives. The integration of NTFPs have achieved a dual purpose by firstly, encouraging the farmers to re-enter their plantations to fend them and secondly, secured them access to alternative livelihoods.

The farmers consider the NTFPs they have integrated as economic goods which can bring them additional income to improve their well-being and are therefore willing to take practical steps to secure them. Also, They are willing to develop them into viable entrepreneurial models and value chains. This optimism requires further actions by the EA and FC to ensure that the farmers are further exposed to realistic marketing skills and approaches. Under Output 3, all 150 farmers were trained in basic business skills such as book-keeping and managerial practices. This will need to be deepened to cover acquiring new skills in marketing, value chain development and entrepreneurial models. It is not realistic to anticipate the full realisation of a full-fledged effective marketing and entrepreneurial model at this stage of pilot project implementation. The current project performance show that more time is needed to come to such a level. All current direct project beneficiaries and stakeholders share a common view for a 2nd Phase of this pilot project.

Assessment and Analysis:

b. Project stakeholders identification:

RUDEYA interacted with both the primary and the secondary stakeholders and captured their concerns and inputs during the project design. All the stakeholders identified participated in the project formulation process and continued their participation during the inception to its completion. They made suggestions and recommendations to improve the implementation of the project. However, in the course of the project, RUDEYA identified artisans (carpenters) who played important role in the project.

ii. The project design

The project design has been found to be appropriate. The project activities are generating desirable outputs and are gearing towards the achievement of the target the project set to achieve for the project beneficiaries. The project workshops, capacity building strategies and training, consultative meetings, technical support and stakeholder dialogues have conferred capabilities, knowledge and the needed skills to the target groups. The direction of the project results indicates that if the project gains are sustained, the long term effects of the project will contribute positively towards the achievement of the specific and development objectives.

iii. Critical difference between planned and actual project implementation

a. Although the EA with legal support from project legal consultant has captured and compiled in both electronic and hard copy versions data of six hundred (600) MTS farmers using the computerized form that was provided by the IT centre of the Forestry commission/RMSC, yet the actual signing is yet to be done. The EA has been advised by the PTC to send a letter of recommendation to the FC to speed up the signing of the Benefit Sharing Agreement due the Modified Taungya System (MTS) farmers under the project.

b. The NTFP farmers still require capacity building on harvesting processing and marketing. The actual linkage to the local market and exporters is outstanding although the farmers have been introduced to the basic business and entrepreneur skills. The reason is that the farmers are yet to experience the actual harvesting, processing and marketing of the NTFP. The first year of the project was used to organize stakeholders workshops and consultative meetings to secure land title and resource rights for the Taungya farmers. Again, the re-capturing of the Taungya farmers data/information for processing using the computerized form RMSC provided was carried out in the first year. It should be emphasized that the project was designed such that those activities will be implemented in the first year. The implementation of activities related to the cultivation of the 3 key NTFPs happened and became vigorous in the second year of the project. The NTFPs, mostly the GOP and the Black pepper require two or more years to be harvested. In effect, the EA needs to be with the NTFP farmers and facilitate the process by providing them the necessary technical back up. Again, the loose NTFP farmers group will have to be migrated into properly registered cooperative groups, strengthen their entrepreneurial skills, provide them with a follow up capacity building on group development, leadership and governance skills. These are fundamental and important drivers to sustain the benefit of the project gains.

iv. Adequacy of time and project inputs

As already stated in (iii, b.), the project will need a second phase in order that the project will fully

Assessment and Analysis:

realize its needed outcomes and also achieve the specific and the development objectives. The project time and inputs in terms of quality were adequate for the first phase but in terms of quantity were not enough to achieve the ambitious project outcomes and its indicators. But, as a pilot project, the framers of the project had in mind to have a second phase of the project after the phase one.

v. External influences

The actual agreement signing between the Forest Commission and the Forest Groups was anticipated not to happen in time during the project design, so practical measures were put in place to push it to happen. As mentioned already, the project has made farmers information and materials needed to enhance the process, available to the FC/RMSC. At the last PTC meeting, it was the FC officials who suggested that a letter of recommendation be written to them to remind them of the signing of the agreement. This is a positive step towards the signing of the agreement.

It was also anticipated that the poor rural small-scale producers will lack strong bargaining and that is why the next phase will migrate the NTFP farmers into cooperatives so that together the farmers could be stronger in bargaining for better prices for their products. The project has considered that the marketing sources of the farmers will be diversified to include exporters.

The government still holds on to its policy on reforestation and collaborative forest management with communities. The FC/RMSC collaborated with the EA in the implementation of the project and is interested and committed to work with farmers and project. As the main Collaborating Agency of the project, their technical staff provided backstopping through socio-economic survey, capacity building and joint monitoring throughout project implementation. The RMSC is willing to extend its technical and institutional support at the end project implementation. It is also willing to support any new initiatives which will up-scale and replicate the integration of NTFPs in the remaining Taungya plantations in Ghana.

vi. The Sustainability Plan of the project will be anchored around the following drivers jointly implemented:

The project has taken concrete steps to build a strong sense of ownership among all major stakeholders and direct beneficiaries. There is now a direct link and relationship developed between Taungya farmers and the Forestry Commissions RMSC. Both parties consider the integration of the NTFPs mutually beneficial and are interested to work together to consolidate and safeguard its medium-long term outcomes.

The securing of Benefit Sharing Agreements for farmers is another important sustainability strategy. By securing these agreements, over 600 farmers now have direct access to tree tenure (including resource user rights) and ownership of their Taungya plantations. The conferment/attainment of tree tenure and resource use rights signifies not only project ownership, but also, a greater economic investment, which will bring them income and catalyze farmers to take practical steps to protect such investments/rights. These ownership driven actions, will ensure environmental, social and economic sustainability of the project simultaneously

Assessment and Analysis:

The NTFP farmers, through various exchange visits, have established linkages with local actors and networks also engaged in the production, cultivation and marketing of similar NTFPs. Through these linkages, they will get wider access to market information on pricing, buyers, value addition and industry best practices to promote their enterprises. Linkages with other actors will facilitate shared learning, with high potentials for developing sustainable NTFP value/commodity chains and larger market access.

The FC/RMSC is interested and committed to work with farmers and project staff to consolidate the benefits of integrating NTFPs in Taungya farms, as a means towards managing forests and plantations sustainably. As the main Collaborating Agency of the project, their technical staff provided backstopping through socio-economic survey, capacity building and monitoring throughout project implementation. The RMSC is willing to extend its technical and institutional support at the end of the project implementation. It is also willing to support any new initiatives which will up-scale and replicate the integration of NTFPs in the remaining Taungya plantations in Ghana.

A pool of reliable cost effective technical expertise has been built to meet or support the capacity building, learning and marketing needs of project beneficiaries, especially, NTFP farmers. All project staff will continue to work closely and provide tailor-made technical support to farmers during the periods immediately preceding the end of this project. This is extremely essential for the farmers to know that in their direst moments of need, there would be a place to turn to. Again, the alliances built with project consultants such as the bee-keeping consultant, Grains of Paradise and Black Pepper consultant will be maintained as a resource for farmers to fall on them in times of need. Each consultant is willing to be contacted for advice as and when needed.

A high demand driven local and international market currently exist for the NTFPs. There are plans to link the buyers in these markets and NTFP farmers, so that they can trade competitively. As a short marketing strategy, the project has identified one organization -ASNAPP- to act as the intermediary organization to buy off the produce from farmers when they harvested and have not found any independent buyers.

iv. While there was continuous collaboration and strengthening of relationships with existing partners, there was also the establishment of new partnerships and collaborations. During the project inception, a presentation was made to the stakeholders on the project development and specific objectives, financial commitments, roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder, the project expected outputs, outcomes and activities to be implemented. This was done to smoothing the rough edges regarding the stakeholders understanding of their roles and responsibilities and also to win their support to the project. This is crucial for a project with a small staff and which believes in a collective approach to seeking solutions to project implementation challenges and establishing stakeholders ownership of the process and the project. The project partners and collaborators were: FC/RMSC, FSD, Chiefs/traditional authorities, District Assemble, MoFA, Rural Enterprise Development project, ASNAPP, Consultants from FORIC, Legal experts, Technology Consultancy Centre (TCC) of KNUST, Artisans/carpenters, communities and NTFP farmers groups and Sustainable Forest Management Partners of Ghana (SFMP-Ghana).

Lessons Learned:

6. Lessons Learnt

Integration of the NTFPs has moved the farmers back into the plantations.

Other MTS farmers outside the project as well as surrounding community members have shown interest to replicate the new NTFPs farming intervention.

Farmers now desist from destructive environmental practices such as bush fire, encroachment and cutting down of trees on their plantation after realising they can continue to benefit from the plantations.

The MTS will be better managed if FC/RMSC support the farmers to have access to medium-term alternative livelihoods.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

7. Conclusion

RUDEYA in collaboration with FC/RMSC has taken practical steps to secure land tenure and resource rights for the 600 Taungya farmers via the signing of Benefit Sharing Agreements. The FC and RMSC are putting up administrative readiness to sign the contract with the farmers. The farmers have been assured that although the actual signing is yet to be done, yet they recognize the fact that the farmers already have tenure rights. This is contributing to forest governance enhancement and sustainable community forest management. However, the EA still will have to play the intermediary role to ensure that the actual contract signing is done.

The project has supported and built the capacity of one hundred and fifty (150) Taungya Farmers to integrate and cultivate NTFPs such as Grains of Paradise and Black Pepper in their plantations. In achieving this, the project got the full support and collaboration from all the stakeholders and partners.

Recommendations:

The following are project recommendations:

1. The EA should write a letter of recommendation to the FC and encourage them to speed up the signing of the Benefit Sharing Agreement due the Modified Taungya System (MTS) farmers under the project.

2. All stakeholders at the last PSC meeting in February 2013 advised the EA to approach ITTO for additional funds to implement a second phase this pilot project.

Forestry Commission should involve forest communities (MTS farmers) in all current forest enterprises e.g. harvesting of thinning materials in the plantation. This will provide incomes to the farmers and serve as an incentive to continue their forest management work.

There should be the possibilities of undertaking a cost benefit analysis of the various NTFPs.

The EA and ITTO should respond to the call of the additional 450 MTS farmers together with the project replicators by including more farmers in the project during the second phase of the project.

The EA and ITTO should make it possible to carry out a survey on the future suitability of the NTFPs

Conclusions and Recommendations:

in the Plantations.

In order to sustain the project gains and ensure the achievement of the long-term objective of the project, the second phase of the Project should be made possible.

The stakeholders again suggested that ITTO could assist the EA to develop a comprehensive community based forest management program including CFEs, forest governance, reforestation and biodiversity protection/development through multi donor network.

Annexes



BLACK PEPPER (BP) TRAINING WORKSHOP

INTRODUCTION

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) project being implemented in the 10 selected communities around the Tano Ofin forest reserve in the Atwima Mponua District in Ashanti region seeks to address the issues of sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation. This will be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest resources development and the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs. One hundred and fifty (150) Modified Taungya System (MTS) farmers have been selected to be trained in the production of honey (beekeeping), GOP, and Black pepper in the said reserve.

40 farmers out of the 150 have been selected for Black Pepper cultivation and they are expected to increase their income status while protecting their Taungya farms for the sustainability of the forest and its environment. The selected farmers are from three (3) communities namely Awadua, Nyinanufu and Nyamebekyere

A one day training workshop on the cultivation processing and marketing of Black Pepper was therefore organized for the selected farmers, to achieve OUTPUT 2.10 stated in the proposal which reads, “Organize training in best practices for Black Pepper (BP)”

Venue: Yede Ko Hene Guest House, Nyinahin- Atwima Mponua District.

Date: 19th March, 2012

Time: 9:00 am

Participants: 40 Taungya Farmers (Male-, Female-),
One staff each from MOFA and FSD

Rudeya: Owusu Asare and Kobia Tiekku (Project Officers)

Resource Person: Prince Manu Yeboah (ASNAPP)

Objective

To train the 40 selected Modified Taungya farmers on how to cultivate Black Pepper as an alternative income generation activity as they engage themselves in Taungya Farming activities for the management of the Tano Ofin forest reserve.

Activities

- a) Welcome address and introduction.
- b) An overview of the ITTO Project.
- c) Black Pepper training.
- d) Questions and answers.
- e) Closing remarks.

(A) Welcome address and introduction- Kobia Tiekou (RUDEYA)



Formal introduction of the project staffs from RUDEYA, the organization implementing the ITTO project was done. Participants from the three communities also introduced themselves.

The participants were advised to take the workshop serious and to put whatever they will learn into practice.

(B) An overview of the ITTO Project- Owusu Asare (RUDEYA)

His address centered on the following points:

- The inadequate capacity of forest communities to manage forest plantations and develop community enterprises on sustainable basis as a result of the following:
- The MTS provides short term benefits with the first three years in the form of food benefits
- Long term benefits in the form of the sale of timber
- Medium term benefits unclear and difficult to obtain (spanning a period of about 20 years) resulting in increased poverty in the FFCs and unsustainable management of forest plantations
- The selection of 40 farmers to start with Black Pepper based on interest and commitment.
- 110 farmers have already benefited from beekeeping and GOP trainings (50 for beekeeping and 60 for GOP).
- The introduction of the NTFPs is been used as a medium term measure to help the Taungya farmers.

(C) Black Pepper Training- Prince Manu Yeboah (ASNAPP)



Resource person making his presentation.

The participants were taken through the following topics:

- **Economic importance and uses of Black Pepper** – It is used by meat packers and in canning, baking, soups table sauce and the preparation of beverages and liquors. It is used in perfumery.
- **Ecology/Areas found.** Black pepper does well in High rainfall areas and can be found in Ashanti, Eastern, Western, Brong Ahafo regions and other cocoa growing areas in the country.
- **Cultivation and maintenance**
 1. It does well where there is partial shade e.g. plantations, plantain, cocoa and other cash crops.
 2. Fields should be cleared of weeds before planting.
 3. It is cultivated by the seeds/cuttings (vines) in May/June or during the major rainy season
 4. Recommended planting distance is 3m x 3m. It is a vine and needs a stake. Gliricidia tree provides the best stake.
 - 5... Harvesting is done from November to March
 6. Regular weeding and picking is needed to promote growth and help to realize high yields
 7. It matures two (2) years after transplanting
 8. It can be harvested for over 30 years.
- **Harvesting and Post-Harvesting Practices**
 1. Matured fruits can be harvested ripe or unripe. Seeds should be dried on raised platforms

2. For short storage, dried pods/seeds can be packed in polypropylene sacks and for long storage..

- **Marketing of Black Pepper.** Produce are sold locally and traded among West African countries where it is used as a spice. Foreign market opportunities are South Africa, USA, Europe and Asia.

During the training, participants were allowed to ask questions after each topic was treated. This helped them to understand the topics well.

(D) ISSUES RAISED

Some of the important issues raised by the participants were as follows:

- After the training, will RUDEYA support them with logistics like planting stock?
- Will they be allowed to plant the Black Pepper outside the forest reserve?
- Will the selected farmers plant the seedlings in the same compartment and in one block?
- Can the BP farmers also engage in the other NTFPs?
- In case RUDEYA provides them with logistics will it be repaid?
- Will there be a guaranteed and sustainable market for their produce?



In response to the issues raised the following were said:

- RUDEYA will support them with the start-up logistics and it will be repaid but spread over a period.
- The BP will be planted in the Taungya farms for easy monitoring.
- The BP farmers can engage in the other NTFPs but they will not be provided with logistics. They will have to learn from the other farmers who will benefit from the training.
- The farmers will work in one compartment as this will make monitoring easy.

- The farmers were promised that marketing will not be a problem as ASNAPP will assist

PARTICIPANT'S RESPONSE TO THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

- Participants appreciated the support of ITTO and RUDEYA with this initiative to enhance their income status.
- Participants expressed their interest, commitment and readiness to put whatever is learnt into practice for the implementation of the project.
- Considered the benefits of BP, participants believed it to be the best livelihood option for them.
- The participants were happy that they will be supported with the initial start-up planting materials.

(E) OUTPUTS

- 40 Modified Taungya farmers from 3 communities around Tano-Ofin forest reserve trained in Black Pepper (BP) cultivation, processing and marketing.

(F) CLOSING REMARKS – OWUSU ASARE (RUDEYA)



In his closing remarks he entreated the participants to put into use what they have been taught at the training workshop. He said by cultivating the BP under the trees, the management of the trees will be enhanced. The BP when properly cultivated and managed will give them extra money thus increasing their income status.

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare
Kobia Tieku

REPORT ON TRAINING WOKSHOP FOR SELECTED ARTISANS ON BEE-HIVES CONSTRUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The ITTO project being implemented in the 10 communities in the Atwima Mponua District in Ashanti region seeks to address the issues of sustainable forest management and poverty reduction. Fifty (50) Taungya farmers from three (3) communities have already been selected and trained in beekeeping as a means of increasing their income status while protecting their taungya farms.

The trained beekeeping farmers will need bee-hives to start with the beekeeping enterprise. A one day training workshop on bee-hives construction was therefore organized for five (5) carpenters selected from the 3 communities, to achieve OUTPUT 2.2 stated in the proposal which reads, 'to train artisans to produce bee-hives/boxes'.

Venue: Kyereyaso, near Nyinahin (Atwima Mponua District capital)

Date: 26th August, 2011

Time: 9:00am

Participants: Five (5) carpenters. See attached list

RUDEYA: Owusu Asare and Kobia Tiekou (Project officers)

Resource Person/ Instructor: Daniel Nketiah

OBJECTIVE

To train the 5 selected carpenters on bee-hives construction so as to enable them produce bee-hives for the beekeepers.

TRAINING MATERIALS: Six (6) Emire boards – 1"x 12"x 14' and 2pounds 2" nails and carpentry tools

ACTIVITIES

1. Welcome address and introduction
2. Bee-hive construction training

1. WELCOME ADDRESS – OWUSU ASARE (RUDEYA)

Formal introduction of the project staffs from RUDEYA and the Resource person was done. The 5 participants also introduced themselves.

The artisans were advised to take the training seriously as it will provide them with the skills to produce bee-hives for the selected farmers and those who will reciprocate the activity. It will also serve as an additional income generating activity.

2. BEEHIVE CONSTRUCTION TRAINING – DANIEL NKETIAH (INSTRUCTOR)

The training took the form of practical demonstrations and was participatory as the participants were free to ask questions at every stage of the training

Stages of the training

The instructor first took them through the various stages involved in the construction of the bee-hive. He briefed the participants on the theoretical aspects of beehive construction (measurements). He personally with the assistance of the participants constructed one (1) hive for them to see. The bee-hive made measured 3' length by 1' breadth.

- The boards were planed



- The boards were then cut into the specifications that the hive was to be made.
- The top cover was also made.



- A sample of the top bars was made. Each bee-hive uses 27 top bars.

After the instructor's demonstration, the 5 participants were able to construct 2 bee-hives with little supervision from the instructor. Each community was given one of the constructed bee-hives.



Artisans and the instructor with finished bee-hives

PARTICIPANTS RESPONSE TO THE TRAINING

- They appreciated the support of ITTO and RUDEYA for providing them with this special initiative to enhance their income status.
- The participants expressed their interest, commitment and readiness to put whatever they have learnt into practice for the implementation of the project.
- They were also happy that the training received will increase their income status as it serves as a job creation opportunity.

OUTCOME

5 carpenters (artisans) from 3 taungya farming communities have been trained on how to produce/construct bee-hives.

CLOSING REMARKS – Kobia Tiekou (RUDEYA)

The participants were advised to put into practice what they have been taught. They were also told to hold themselves in readiness for the construction of the hives for the trained 50 farmers.

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare

Kobia Tiekou

ITTO PROJECT –COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISES
REPORT ON HONEY PRODUCTION TRAINING WORKSHOP
ORGANIZED BY RUDEYA FOR BEEKEEPING FARMERS

INTRODUCTION

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) project being implemented in the 10 selected communities in the Atwima Mponua District in Ashanti region seeks to address the issues of sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation. This will be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest resources development and the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs.

50 farmers who are already engaged in Modified Taungya farming in the Tano Ofin Forest reserve have been selected and they are expected to increase their income status while protecting their Taungya farms for the sustainability of the forest and its environment. The selected farmers are from three (3) communities namely Kyereyaso, Asuontaa and Bofaso

A one day training workshop on honey production and utilization was therefore organized for the selected farmers.

Venue: District Assembly Hall, Nyinahin- Atwima Mponua District.

Date: 26th August, 2011

Time: 9:00am

Participants: 50 Taungya Farmers (Male- 35, Female- 15), 3 Carpenters. List attached

Rudeya: Owusu Asare and Kobia Tiekku (Project Officers)

Resource Person: Charles Anin Adjei – RSMC (Forestry Commission)

Objective

To train the 50 selected Modified Taungya farmers on beekeeping (honey production) as an alternative income generation activity as they engage themselves in Taungya Farming activities for the management of the Tano Ofin forest reserve.

Activities

- (A) Welcome address and introduction.
- (B) An overview of the ITTO Project.
- (C) Beekeeping training.
- (D) Questions and answers.
- (E) Closing remarks.

(A) Welcome address and introduction- Kobia Tiekku (RUDEYA)

Formal introduction of the project staffs from RUDEYA, the organization implementing the ITTO project and the resource person who will take the participants through the training programme was done. Participants from the three communities also introduced themselves.

The participants were advised to take the workshop serious and to put whatever they will learn into practice.

(B) An overview of the ITTO Project- Owusu Asare (RUDEYA)

His address centered on the following points:

- The effects and impacts of the project of the sustainable forest resources development and the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs.
- The selection of 50 farmers to start with beekeeping based on interest and commitment.
- The other 100 farmers will also be selected to engage in Grains of Paradise and Black pepper production respectively.
- The introduction of the NTFPs is been used as a medium term measure to help the Taungya farmers.

(C) Beekeeping Training- Charles Anin Adjei (RMSC – Forestry Commission)

Methodology

The method used by the Resource Person during the training were power point presentation, practical demonstration and participatory



The participants were taken through the following topics:

- **Economic importance and uses of honey.** Honey is medicinal and cures many diseases. As a substitute for sugar and also makes the brain sharper
- **Colony** (types of bees in it and their roles as they are the agents of honey) Types of bees in a colony are the queen, drones and the workers. The workers search for food and feed the entire colony. The drones cross the queen and the queen lays eggs. One queen can lay about 2000 eggs.

- **Materials needed for beekeeping** e.g. Beehive, Smoker, Protective clothing (suit, face mask, gloves, Wellington boots etc.)
- **(Type of wood suitable for the construction of the hives** redwoods) e.g. emire, danta etc The use of softwood will attract insects attack and this may lead to the rotten of the hive in a short time.
- **Proper sitting of Beehives.** Preferably under trees and termites-free areas
- **Baiting of the hives.** Bee wax, honey, palm wine, prekesse etc can be used to bait the hives. This is done to attract bees into the hives. Baiting can be done more than once to attract the bees.
- **Harvesting, extraction, processing.** Harvesting is normally done in the night to avoid the attack of the bees. Materials used during harvesting are smoker, and the protective clothing as mentioned above. After harvesting the honey is extracted and processed into bottles and containers of various sizes.
- **Marketing of honey.** It is done at the community, district and the national levels. The processed honey can also be properly packaged, registered and sold at pharmacy and other shops

During the training, participants were allowed to ask questions after each topic was treated. This helped them to understand the topics well. The practical demonstrations were done by the participants under the direction of the resource person.



(D) ISSUES RAISED

Some of the important issues raised by the participants were as follows:

- After the training, will RUDEYA support them with logistics like hives and protective clothing?
- Will they be allowed to place the hives in their individual farms?
- Can the beekeepers also engage in the other NTFPs?
- In case RUDEYA provides them with logistics will it be repaid?
- Will there be a guaranteed and sustainable market for their product?

In response to the issues raised the following were said:

- RUDEYA will support them with the start-up logistics and it will not be repaid.
- The hives have to be placed in the taungya farms for easy monitoring.
- The beekeepers can engage in the other NTFPs to be introduced but the only difference is that they will not be trained and provided with logistics. They will have to learn from the other farmers who will benefit from the training.
- The Resource person promised them that if they do it well marketing will not be a problem as he himself is a buyer

(E) PARTICIPANTS RESPONSE TO THE WORKSHOP:

- Participants appreciated the effort of both ITTO and RUDEYA to support them to enhance their income status.
- Participants also expressed their interest and commitment and promised to put whatever is learnt into good practices to to achieve the ultimate goal of the project.
- Participants considered Beekeeping as livelihood option to them.
- Participants were happy that initial start-up support will be provided by the project.

(F) OUTCOME

- 50 modified taungya farmers from 3 communities in Tano-Ofin forest reserve trained in honey production (beekeeping)

(F) CLOSING REMARKS – Kobia Tiekü

In his closing remarks he entreated the participants to put into use what they have been taught at the training workshop. When this is done, it will give them extra money thus increasing their income status. It will also wean them from the forest reserve for honey harvesting resulting in forest fires.

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare

Kobia Tiekü

ITTO PROJECT – COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISES

REPORT ON COMMUNITY MOBILISATION, SENSITISATION AND SELECTION OF FARMERS FOR BLACK PEPPER (BP) ENTERPRISE – FEBRUARY, 2012

INTRODUCTION

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) project being implemented in the 10 selected communities in the Atwima Mponua District in Ashanti region seeks to address the issues of sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation. This will be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest resource development and the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs.

The target beneficiaries of the project are the Modified Taungya farmers in the 10 communities who are already farming in the Tano Ofin Forest reserve. The 10 communities are Kyereyasoo, Bofaso, Asuontaa, Kwadwo Tire, Kramokrom, Akantansu, Nyinanufo, Nyamebekyere, Awadua and Akwaboraso. The NTFPs to be developed and integrated into the farmers farming systems are Beekeeping, Grains of Paradise and Black Pepper.

Black pepper is the last among the 3 NTFPs that are to be promoted under the project. There was therefore the need to carry out community mobilization, sensitization and selection of farmers for this activity.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

The following activities were carried out between on the 14th and 15th February, 2012

- Selection of 3 communities
- Community mobilization and sensitization of Black pepper as a small scale forest enterprise.
- Selection of farmers for the Black pepper activity

(A) Selection and visit to 3 communities

Three (3) communities among the ten (10) were selected for this activity. The three (3) remaining communities selected for the Black pepper enterprise are Nyinanufo, Nyamebekyere and Awadua. The 3 communities are along the same corridor and this will facilitate easy monitoring. Also the necessary impact will be felt during project evaluation. Marketing of the produce will be easier and convenient for both the producers and the buyers.

(B) Community mobilization and sensitization

Community meetings were held with the Modified Taungya Farmers in the 3 communities. During the meetings the farmers were sensitized on the following:

- Economic importance of Black pepper and how it can be developed into an enterprise.
- As medicinal and food supplement e.g. preparation of beverages, liquors and perfumery.
- As a medium term income before the trees in the taungya farms are harvested.

- Short gestation period i.e. 2 years after transplanting and it can be harvested for over 30 years.
- Establishment of a nursery
- Marketing. It has both local and international market.

Issues raised by farmers at the meeting

The issues raised by the farmers during the meetings in all the 3 communities were as follows:

- Will RUDEYA support the beneficiary farmers with the initial planting stock and money for weeding their farms before planting?
- Can a farmer engage in all the 3 NTFPs?
- In case RUDEYA provides the initial planting stock to the farmers will it be repaid?
- Marketing. Will there be a guaranteed and sustainable market for the produce?

The 2 project officers answered most of the questions but referred some for more clarifications during the actual training workshop.

Attendance at the 3 community meetings were as follows

NAME OF COMMUNITY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Nyinanufo	34	20	54
Nyamebekyere	24	14	38
Awadua	20	15	35

(C) Selection of farmers for Black pepper farming

In all forty (40) farmers were selected from the 3 communities for this activity. The number of farmers to be selected from a community was based on the numerical strength of taungya farmers there. Fifteen (15) farmers each were selected from Nyinanufo and Nyamebekyere whilst ten (10) were selected from Awadua.

The selected farmers are listed below

NO	NAME	SEX	COMMUNITY
1	Kwame Nkrumah	M	NYAMEBEKYERE
2	Badu Kakyire	M	- do -
3	Akua Sarpong	F	- do -
4	Kwasi Fosu	M	- do -
5	Kwame Boakye	M	- do -
6	Kwame Sampson	M	- do -
7	Alex Kwofie	M	- do -
8	Kofi Obeng	M	- do -
9	Kwabena Arhin	M	- do -
10	Adwoa Gyamfua	F	- do -
11	Yaa Kyerewaa	F	- do -

12	Esther Musah	F	- do -
13	Martha Serwaa	F	- do -
14	Ama Lamatu	F	- do -
15	Esther Nkrumah	M	- do -
16	Osei Twumasi	M	NYINANUFO
17	Atta Ntiamoah	M	- do -
18	Yaa Duruye	F	- do -
19	Seth Osei Agyeman	M	- do -
20	Yaa Mansah	F	- do -
21	Mohammed Ali Abdulai	M	- do -
22	Theresa Asieduwaa	F	- do -
23	Akwasi Acheampong	M	- do -
24	Adwoa Amankwaa	F	- do -
25	Kwadwo Frimpong	M	- do -
26	Akwasi Asenso	M	- do -
27	Kwabena Amankwaa	M	- do -
28	Adwoa Barikisu	F	- do -
29	Ernest Oduro	M	- do -
30	Hamidu Alhassan	M	- do -
31	Akua Afriyie	F	AWADUA
32	Stephen Wiredu	M	- do -
33	Brantuo Acheampong	M	- do -
34	Kwabena Minka	M	- do -
35	Abdulai Atta	M	- do -
36	Patience Nyantakyi	F	- do -
37	Salamatu Kramo	F	- do -
38	Dauda Tenge	M	- do -
39	Samira Abu	F	- do -
40	Rukaya Attuwie	F	- do -

MALE – 24 (60%) FEMALE – 16 (40%)

OUTCOMES

The outcomes of the activities carried out are as follows:

- Modified Taungya farmers in three (3) communities namely Nyinanufo, Nyamebekyere and Awadua along the Tano Ofin forest reserve in the Atwima Mponua District sensitized and mobilized on the economic importance of Black pepper.
- Forty (40) Modified Taungya farmers from the three (3) communities selected for Black Pepper farming.

CONCLUSION

The meeting with the Taungya farmers was fruitful as they cooperated with us during the exercise. They were also informed that the date and the venue for the Black Pepper training workshop will be communicated to them when fixed.

ITTO PROJECT

REPORT ON STAKEHOLDERS MONITORING VISIT TO ITTO PROJECT AREA

INTRODUCTION

The first phase of the ITTO project which started in 2010 is coming to an end in 2012 and as such there was the need for all the major stakeholders and collaborators to have direct information of what is actually happening on the ground. A day's monitoring visit was therefore planned and undertaken to some selected communities in the project area of Atwima Mponua District on 8th November, 2012.

STAKEHOLDERS

- Director and some staff of Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) – FC
- RUDEYA's Board of Directors
- Executive Director and staff of RUDEYA



OBJECTIVE

To assess whether the activities being undertaken towards planned outputs and intended objectives of the ITTO project are being achieved.

PLANNED MONITORING VISIT

Initially the monitoring visit to the ten (10) project communities was planned for two (2) days but due to some problems it was reduced to one (1) day. Five (5) communities were to be visited in each day.

COMMUNITIES VISITED

Three (3) out of the five (5) communities were visited during the monitoring exercise. The communities were Akwaboraso, Kramokrom and Bofaso.



AKWABORASO

It is one of the four (4) communities that are cultivating Grains of Paradise (GOP). The fifteen (15) MTS farmers have planted a total of 7.5 acres of GOP in compartment 26 of Asenanyo forest reserve. The monitoring team was taken round the farms and they had interactions with the farmers that were present. One unique thing that was observed was that the farm was a block one and the plants were doing well as the farm was weed free. During the interactions with the farmers, they called for the supply of logistics like cutlasses and protective boots to help assist them in their work.



KRAMOKROM/SRESO

It is also a GOP community and the twenty (20) farmers have cultivated a total of 10 acres of the plant in compartment 281 of Tano Ofin forest reserve. The team observed that the farmers here were not practicing the block farming system but rather individual farm's system. Each farmer was farming on his own plot and the plants were doing well and the farms cleared of weeds. The farmers asked the stakeholders to assist them with logistics like boots and cutlasses for the enhancement of their work.



BOFASO

It is one of the three (3) communities that are doing Beekeeping. Two (2) farmers whose bee-hives have colonized were visited. It was observed that the farmers have not tended the portion of the plantation that they have placed the hives. It was also noticed that there were still some foodstuffs like plantain and cocoyam in the area.



The farmers were advised to place the hives in areas that are cleared of weeds and also there are no foodstuffs as required in the Proposal.

We could not visit the other two (2) Beekeeping communities of Kyereyaso and Asuontaa as time was not on our side.

OUTCOMES

- RMSC and RUDEYA's Board of Directors have direct and visible information on NTFPs in some project communities
- RMSC and RUDEYA's Board of Directors have interacted with NTFP farmers to know their problems and challenges.

CONCLUSION

The monitoring visit was a success as the team was happy with what they saw. In all the communities that we went, the members of the team had the opportunity to interact and offer advice to the farmers and this helped raised the morale of the farmers. The visit to the remaining communities will be carried out on a new date yet to be fixed.

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare

Kobia Tiekou

REPORT ON STAKEHOLDERS MONITORING VISIT TO ITTO PROJECT AREA

ITTO PROJECT - ENRICHMENT OF YOUNG FOREST PLANTATIONS WITH SELECTED NTFPs FOR LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND SUPPORT OF FOREST FRINGE COMMUNITIES IN ATWIMA MPONUA DISTRICT OF GHANA, IN ORDER TO SECURE AND PROTECT THE RESOURCES ON A SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT BASIS.



NOVEMBER, 2012

ITTO PROJECT – MAY 2012

ENRICHMENT OF YOUNG FOREST PLANTATIONS WITH SELECTED NTFPs FOR LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND SUPPORT OF FOREST FRINGE COMMUNITIES IN ATWIMA MPONUA DISTRICT OF GHANA, IN ORDER TO SECURE AND PROTECT THE RESOURCES ON A SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT BASIS.

REPORT ON DISTRIBUTION OF BLACK PEPPER (BP) SEEDLINGS TO SELECTED MTS FARMERS

INTRODUCTION

The ITTO project being implemented in the Atwima Mponua District seeks to address the issues of sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation. This will be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest resource development and the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs.

Seedlings of Black pepper (BP) that have been raised in the nursery were therefore distributed to the selected and trained MTS farmers who opted for Black pepper production.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

The following activities were carried out during the month of May 2012

- Supply and planting of Gliricidia (stake).
- Distribution of Black Pepper seedlings to selected MTS farmers in three (3) communities
- Provision of on-farm technical support to the MTS farmers.

(A) Supply and planting of Gliricidia (stake)

The Black Pepper seedling is a vine (climber) so it needs a stake for it to go up. There was therefore the need to provide it with Gliricidia plant which has been recommended as a good stake for the plant. Each farmer was provided with 200 Gliricidia stakes with each measuring 3 feet. The stakes were planted before the Black Pepper seedlings.



(B) Distribution of BP seedlings to MTS farmers.

Four thousand (4000) seedlings of BP were distributed to forty (40) farmers in three (3) communities of Nyamebekyere, Awadua and Nyinanufu for planting during the month under review. Each of the farmers planted half an acre with 100 seedlings.



The breakdown is as follows:

NO	NAME OF COMMUNITY	NO. OF FARMERS	MALE	FEMALE	QUANTITY SUPPLIED	ACREAGE
1	Nyinanufu	15	11	4	1,500	7.5
2	Nyamebekyere	15	8	7	1,500	7.5
3	Awadua	10	5	5	1,000	5.0
	TOTAL	40	24	16	4,000	20

Male – 60%, Female – 40%



(C) Provision of on-farm technical support to the MTS farmers

The farmers were given on- farm technical support by the field staff of RUDEYA in the form of demonstrating to them the correct planting distance, how to plant the seedlings from the poly bags and how to maintain the plants.



OUTCOMES

- The 40 farmers have cultivated 20 acres of plantation land with 4,000 BP seedlings
- The 40 farmers have acquired knowledge in good agricultural practices.
- 40 MTS farmers have cleared/tended 20 acres of cedrella plantation land of weeds.
- There is always human presence in the plantation and this will help check illegal activities

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare

Kobia Tiekou

ITTO PROJECT – DISTRIBUTION OF BEE-HIVES TO BEEKEEPERS – NOVEMBER, 2011

Introduction

The selected fifty (50) Modified Taungya System (MTS) farmers have been trained in the best practices of beekeeping. After the training, the farmers needed the necessary logistics to start the beekeeping enterprise. Bee-hive, which is the first logistics to start the enterprise, has been provided to the farmers.

Bee-hives Distribution

A total number of one hundred (100) beehives have been distributed to the selected fifty (50) trained MTS farmers who are into beekeeping in the three (3) communities of Kyereyaso, Bofaso and Asuontaa in the Atwima Mponua District.

Thirty (30) out of the eighty (100) bee-hives were made by three (3) of the artisans who were trained in the construction of bee-hives in accordance with **Output 2.2** stated in the Proposal which reads, **‘train artisans to produce bee-hives/boxes’**. The remaining fifty (70) hives were purchased from the Technology Consultancy Centre (TCC) of KNUST, Kumasi.



The breakdown of the distribution to the farmers is as follows:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER OF FARMERS	NO. OF HIVES SUPPLIED TO EACH FARMER	TOTAL NO. OF HIVES SUPPLIED
KYEREYASO	20	2	40
BOFASO	15	2	30
ASUONTAA	15	2	30
TOTAL			100



Outcomes

The following outcomes were achieved:

- Hundred(100) bee-hives have been supplied to fifty (50) MTS farmers in the three (3) selected communities
- Three (3) of the trained artisans have earned income from the production of thirty (30) bee-hives.

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare

Kobia Tiekou

GRAINS OF PARADISE (GOP) TRAINING WORKSHOP -13TH DECEMBER, 2011)

INTRODUCTION

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) project being implemented in the 10 selected communities around the Tano Ofin forest reserve in the Atwima Mponua District in Ashanti region seeks to address the issues of sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation. This will be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest resources development and the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs. One hundred and fifty (150) Modified Taungya System (MTS) farmers have been selected to be trained in the production of honey (beekeeping), GOP, and Black pepper in the said reserve.

60 farmers out of the 150 have been selected for GOP cultivation and they are expected to increase their income status while protecting their Taungya farms for the sustainability of the forest and its environment. The selected farmers are from four (4) communities namely Akentansu, Akwaboraso, Kramokrom/Sreso and Kwadwo Tire.

A one day training workshop on the cultivation processing and marketing of GOP was therefore organized for the selected farmers, to achieve OUTPUT 2.6 stated in the proposal which reads, “Organize training in best practices for Grains of Paradise (GOP)”

Venue: Yede Ko Hene Guest House, Nyinahin- Atwima Mponua District.

Date: 13th December, 2011

Time: 9:00am

Participants: 60 Taungya Farmers (Male- 20, Female- 40), one staff each from MOFA and FSD

Rudeya: Owusu Asare and Kobia Tiekou (Project Officers)

Objective

To train the 60 selected Modified Taungya farmers on how to cultivate GOP as an alternative income generation activity as they engage themselves in Taungya Farming activities for the management of the Tano Ofin forest reserve.

Activities

- a) Welcome address and introduction.
- b) An overview of the ITTO Project.
- c) GOP training.
- d) Questions and answers.
- e) Closing remarks.

(A) Welcome address and introduction- Kobia Tieku (RUDEYA)

Formal introduction of the project staffs from RUDEYA, the organization implementing the ITTO project was done. Participants from the three communities also introduced themselves.

The participants were advised to take the workshop serious and to put whatever they will learn into practice.



(B) An overview of the ITTO Project- Owusu Asare (RUDEYA)

His address centered on the following points:

- The inadequate capacity of forest communities to manage forest plantations and develop community enterprises on sustainable basis as a result of the following:
- The MTS provides short term benefits with the first three years in the form of food benefits
- Long term benefits in the form of the sale of timber
- Medium term benefits unclear and difficult to obtain (spanning a period of about 20 years) resulting in increased poverty in the FFCs and unsustainable management of forest plantations
- The selection of 60 farmers to start with GOP based on interest and commitment.
- 50 farmers have already benefited from beekeeping training. The remaining 40 farmers will also be selected and trained in Black pepper production.
- The introduction of the NTFPs is been used as a medium term income to help the Taungya farmers.

(C) Grains of Paradise Training- Owusu Asare (RUDEYA)



The participants were taken through the following topics:

- **Economic importance and uses of GOP.** GOP is a spice for flavoring food and drinks and also medicinal for the treatment of some diseases like body pains, rheumatism, dysentery and toothache
- **Ecology/Areas found.** GOP does well in High rainfall areas and can be found in Ashanti, Eastern, Western, Central regions and other cocoa growing areas in the country.
- **Cultivation and maintenance**
 1. It does well where there is partial shade e.g. plantations, plantain, cocoa and other cash crops.
 2. Fields should be cleared of weeds before planting.
 3. It is cultivated by the seeds/rhizome in May/June or during the major rainy season
 4. Recommended planting distance is 2m x 2m and sowing depth is less than 3 inches
 5. It flowers from September to December and matured fruits are red/yellow. Harvesting is done from February to April
 6. Regular weeding and picking is needed to promote growth and help to realize high yields
 7. It matures between 12 and 18 months after transplanting
 8. It can be cropped for over 10 years.
- **Harvesting and Post-Harvesting Practices**
 1. Ripe pods are plucked from the base of the plant and dried on raised platforms for about 7 days. Well-dried pods are brown. Yield per acre is 0.5-1.5 Metric Tons per year.

2. For short storage, dried pods/seeds can be packed in polypropylene sacks and for long storage, ashes can be applied to the pods before packing.

- **Marketing of GOP.** Produce are sold locally and traded among West African countries especially Togo, Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire and Niger. Foreign market opportunities are South Africa and USA.

During the training, participants were allowed to ask questions after each topic was treated. This helped them to understand the topics well.

(D) ISSUES RAISED

Some of the important issues raised by the participants were as follows:

- After the training, will RUDEYA support them with logistics like planting stock?
- Will they be allowed to plant the GOP in their individual farms outside the forest reserve?
- Will the selected farmers plant the GOP in the same compartment and in one block?
- Can the GOP farmers also engage in the other NTFPs?
- In case RUDEYA provides them with logistics will it be repaid?
- Will there be a guaranteed and sustainable market for their produce?

In response to the issues raised the following were said:

- RUDEYA will support them with the start-up logistics and it will not be repaid.
- The GOP will be planted in the Taungya farms for easy monitoring.
- The GOP can engage in the other NTFPs to be introduced but the only difference is that they will not be trained and provided with logistics. They will have to learn from the other farmers who will benefit from the training.
- The farmers will work in one compartment as this will make monitoring easy.
- The farmers were promised that marketing will not be a problem as we have contacts with another NGO called ASNAPP who are in the marketing GOP.

PARTICIPANT'S RESPONSE TO THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

- Participants appreciated the support of ITTO and RUDEYA with this initiative to enhance their income status.
- Participants expressed their interest, commitment and readiness to put whatever is learnt into practice for the implementation of the project.
- Considered the benefits of GOP, participants believed it to be the best livelihood option for them.
- The participants were happy that they will be supported with the initial start-up planting materials.

(E) OUTCOME

- 60 Modified Taungya farmers from 4 communities around Tano-Ofin forest reserve in Atwima Mponua District trained in Grains of Paradise (GOP) cultivation, processing and marketing.

(F) CLOSING REMARKS – Aidoo Mark Gyamfi (Assistant Forest Manager, Nkawie FSD)



In his closing remarks he entreated the participants to put into use what they have been taught at the training workshop. He said by cultivating the GOP under the trees, the management of the trees will be enhanced. The GOP when properly cultivated and managed will give them extra money thus increasing their income status.

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare
Kobia Tiekou

ITTO PROJECT

REPORT ON EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR GRAINS OF PARADISE (GOP) FARMERS

INTRODUCTION

The ITTO project being piloted in the Tano-Ofin forest reserve seeks to assist the farmers to get land tenure and forest resource rights agreements signed with the FC and also provides them with medium term income from the third year till the trees are harvested. Three (3) NTFPs namely Grains of paradise (GOP), Black pepper (BP) and Beekeeping (honey production) are being implemented to serve this medium term income. One hundred and fifty (150) Modified Taungya System (MTS) farmers are involved in this pilot project.

EXCHANGE VISIT

In line with Outputs 2.9 of the Project which states, 'organize exchange visit among GOP farmers, a day's farmer exchange programme was organized for some selected GOP farmers in Atwima Mponua District to Nyamebekyere, a community in Asunafo North District for this purpose. The community has both a Plant NTFPs Demonstration farm jointly established by RUDEYA and ASNAPP and enterprising farmers engaged in GOP production.

DATE: 10th April, 2012

PURPOSE

The purpose of the exchange visit was for the GOP farmers from Atwima Mponua District to share and learn best agricultural practices for the production GOP

PARTICIPANTS

Sixty (60) farmers undertook this exchange visit.

ACTIVITIES

1. Visit to Plant NTFPs Demonstration farm at Nyamebekyere (Mim)

The farmers were taken to the NTFP's Demonstration farm at Nyamebekyere (Mim) where the various plant NTFPs have been established. The two (2) farm attendants from ASNAPP a sister NGO in the management of the farm took the farmers round. The farmers saw farm stands of GOP, Black pepper, voacanga and Grifonia. The farmers took the opportunity and asked questions ranging from raising plants at the nursery to the maturity of the plants. The farmers were told that the Demonstration farm is used as propagation and research plots for the plant NTFPs. In addition to this, the farm serves as learning centre for individual farmers and groups who are interested in the cultivation of these plants.



The visiting GOP farmers at the Demonstration farm

2. Visit to a GOP farm at Nyamebekyere

The farmers visited one of the enterprising GOP farmers farm at Nyamebekyere. The farmer (Emmanuel Akomeah) took the farmers through his farm. The visiting farmers were very happy to see some of the plants in flowers and how he has also maintained the farm. He took them through the maintenance practices needed for the growth of GOP. The farmers asked questions ranging from farm maintenance, harvesting, processing, marketing to challenges, problems etc. The farmers also shared their individual experiences on the cultivation of GOP with the farmer at Nyamebekyere.



The visiting GOP farmers at one of the enterprising farmers' farm

FARMERS IMPRESSIONS ON THE EXCHANGE VISIT

The farmers said the exchange visit has afforded them the opportunity to interact with farmers who are already in the NTFPs business and who has also made some incomes from it. This has really motivated them. They have also learned from the experiences of the old farmers and this will richly enhance their production. Through this visit, they have also established contacts with the old farmers and this will facilitate the exchange of ideas and issues among themselves. E g marketing of produce

OUTCOMES

Sixty (60) GOP farmers from four (4) communities in Atwima Mponua District have shared and learned best practices GOP production from fellow farmers in Asunafo North District.

CONCLUSION

The exchange visit organized for the GOP farmers was a success as the farmers learned and shared new and best practices for the cultivation of the plant with their colleague farmers.

ITTO PROJECT

REPORT ON EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR BLACK PEPPER (BP) FARMERS

INTRODUCTION

The ITTO project being piloted in the Tano-Ofin forest reserve seeks to assist the farmers to get land tenure and forest resource rights agreements signed with the FC and also provides them with medium term income from the third year till the trees are harvested. Three (3) NTFPs namely Grains of paradise (GOP), Black pepper (BP) and Beekeeping (honey production) are being implemented to serve this medium term income. One hundred and fifty (150) Modified Taungya System (MTS) farmers are involved in this pilot project.

EXCHANGE VISIT

In line with Outputs 2.13 of the Project which states, 'organize exchange visit among Black pepper (BP) farmers, a day's farmer exchange programme was organized for the farmers in Atwima Mponua District to Nyamebekyere, a community in Asunafo North District for this purpose. The community has both a Plant NTFPs Demonstration farm jointly established by RUDEYA and ASNAPP and enterprising farmers engaged in BP and GOP production.

DATE: 25TH April, 2012

PURPOSE

The purpose of the exchange visit was for the BP farmers from Atwima Mponua District to share and learn best agricultural practices for the production of the NTFP

PARTICIPANTS

Forty (40) farmers undertook this exchange visit.

ACTIVITIES

1. Visit to Plant NTFPs Demonstration farm at Nyamebekyere (Mim)

The farmers were taken to the NTFP's Demonstration farm at Nyamebekyere (Mim) where the various plant NTFPs have been established. The two (2) farm attendants from ASNAPP a sister NGO in the management of the farm took the farmers round. The farmers saw farm stands of GOP, Black pepper, voacanga and Grifonia. The farmers took the opportunity and asked questions ranging from raising plants at the nursery to the maturity of the plants. The farmers were told that the Demonstration farm is used as propagation and research plots for the plant NTFPs. In addition to this, the farm serves as learning centre for individual farmers and groups who are interested in the cultivation of these plants.



The visiting Black Pepper farmers at one of the farmers' farm

2. Visit to a Black Pepper farm at Ahantamo

The farmers visited two (2) of the enterprising Black Pepper farmers' farms at Ahantamo. The enterprising farmers took the visiting farmers through their farms. The visiting farmers were very happy to see how they have maintained their farms. They took them through the maintenance practices needed for the growth of Black Pepper. The farmers asked questions ranging from farm maintenance, harvesting, processing, marketing to challenges, problems etc. The farmers also shared their individual experiences on the cultivation of Black Pepper with their counterparts at Ahantamo.



The visiting Black Pepper farmers at one of the farmers' farm

FARMERS IMPRESSIONS ON THE EXCHANGE VISIT

The farmers said the exchange visit has afforded them the opportunity to interact with farmers who are already in the NTFPs business and who has also made some incomes from it. This has really motivated them. They have also learned from the experiences of the old farmers and this will richly enhance their production. Through this visit, they have also established contacts with the old farmers and this will facilitate the exchange of ideas and issues among themselves. E g marketing of produce

OUTCOMES

Forty (40) Black pepper farmers from three (3) communities in Atwima Mponua District have shared and learned best practices Black pepper production from fellow farmers in Asunafo North District.

CONCLUSION

The exchange visit organized for the Black Pepper farmers was a success as the farmers learned and shared new and best practices for the cultivation of the plant with their colleague farmers.

ITTO FUNDED PROJECT

REPORT ON STAKEHOLDERS MEETING –OWNERSHIP OF LAND AND FOREST RESOURCES IN THE NKAWIE FOREST DISTRICT

12TH APRIL 2011

Introduction

RUDEYA under the auspices of International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other partners is undertaken a two year project in the Atwima Mponua District. The project aims at improving community participation in sustainable forest management, enhance livelihoods, promote community based forest enterprises and reduce poverty among Taungya farmers and forest communities.

Under this backdrop was a one-day stakeholder's meeting organized to formally roll out the programme and also deliberate on the various components of the project especially land ownership and forest resource management among participants. In attendance included RUDEYA, Forest Service Division, Resource Management and Support Center, Atwima Mponua District Assembly, Traditional Authorities (Abremponghe/hemaa) from both Nkawie and Nyinahin Traditional Area, Media, Taungya farmers from ten FFC etc.

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting include the following:

- To formally introduce the project to the stakeholders
- To build consensus with stakeholders about the project and encourage their participation
- To interact with the forest governing body on the way forward

Methodology

The participatory approach was used at the meeting. Resources persons made their presentations and key issues of the presentations were discussed by participants followed by questions and answers by both participants and resource persons respectively.

Outcome/Key Issues

RUDEYA

- It was noted that the Government of Ghana has upheld the Modified Taungya System to make way for the National Plantation Forestry Programme which also seeks to replant degraded forests same as the MTS
- In order not to leave the existing MTS farmers in limbo RUDEYA has introduced this project to help farmers benefit fully from their cultivated tree plantations.
- This new project seeks to include the new innovation of cultivating NTFP within the existing Taungya plantation for the maximum benefit of the farmers.

- The project period is 2 years; the first year will primarily be used to facilitate the signing of the contract (MTS) and other consultations in relation to the project. The NTFP aspect will start in the second year of the project.

FSD/RMSC

- The FSD/RMSC have accessed a facility called the National Forestry Facility of FAO to assist in registering all the remaining MTS farmers to ensure proper contracts are signed among the stakeholders.
- The facility demand CSO to bid in order to execute the programme
- Winners of the bid are to build the capacity of the MTS farmers in build capacity in group dynamics etc as well as register those who have not yet been registered.
- In the interim farmers were advised to maintain their farms for high yield as their future earnings will be dependant of the number of trees found on the allocated land.

Traditional Authority

- The TA present expressed their appreciation for the benefit the Modified Taungya has brought to the traditional area and commended RUDEYA for their initiative.
- They then pledge their support for the programme and subsequent ones that will be organized in relation to this course

Question Time

After the various submissions the participants were given the opportunity to ask pertinent questions bothering on what have been discussed as well as all others in relation to project. Below are summaries of the questions.

- How are we going to curtail the activities of illegal logging/chain saw activities?
- When will farmers be given parts of degraded forest (MTS) to cultivate?
- Are there assistance/incentives from FSD in the maintenance of our plantation?
- Will RUDEYA supply the NTFP seedlings?
- How will the farmers 'grow' honey?
- Is there a ready market for the NTFPs?
- Why did RUDEYA not add ginger to the proposed NTFP list
- Will this project cater for all the MTS farmers?
- Will MTS Farmers from the Asenanyo forest reserve benefit for this project?
- When the land lease is signed and copies given to the Taungya head will individual farmers be given copies?

All questions and more were reacted to by the officials and other resource persons present. They advised participants to maintain their farms by themselves since they own 40% of the plantation.

With new allocation of degraded forests, participants were advised to write officially to the appropriate quarters the Nkawie Forest District (FSD) and RUDEYA will be ready to facilitate the process for them to acquire the degraded forest lands if it is certified by the FSD to be degraded as claimed by the farmers.

With the NTFPs RUDEYA assured participants that high yielding seedlings will be supplied to farmers. Additionally, there is a ready market (ASNAPP) for whatever would be produced by the farmers.

Wayforward and Recommendation

Participants agreed that there is the need for all stakeholders to collaborate with each other for the successful signing of the contract/land lease. The FSD and TA pledged their willingness to support and play their part in the contract process. The TA however, requested a field trip to the plantations in order to attest positively to it. The farmers also pleaded with RUDEYA to be present to witness the signing of the lease.

Conclusion

All stakeholders recommended RUDEYA for the innovative initiative. The Executive Director of RUDEYA told the participants that the project is not for RUDEYA but for the participant and pleaded for commitment from farmers as RUDEYA is committed to ensure success.

Phyllis Nkrumah Adjei

Reporting Officer

ITTO PROJECT – REPORT ON NURSERY ESTABLISHMENT – FEBRUARY, 2012

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Output 2.7 of the Project's set Outputs, which states that 'assist farmers to set up nurseries' RUDEYA is assisting the selected MTS farmers to set up one GOP nursery for the 50 trained GOP farmers from the 4 communities. The communities are Akantansu, Kramokrom/Sreso, Akwaboraso and Kwadwo Tire. The central nursery is being sited at Kramokrom. This will afford the farmers easy access to GOP seedlings and also learn how to raise it.

OBJECTIVE

To assist the farmers to set up GOP nursery for easy access to GOP seedlings for planting

ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been undertaken:

- Acquisition of land at Kramokrom for the establishment of the nursery.

A piece of land measuring 25m X25m was provided by the chief and the farmers of Kramokrom for the establishment of the central nursery. The land is suitable as it slopes gently and is also near the cedrella plantation.

- Procurement of tools and equipments

The necessary tools and equipments needed for the establishment and maintenance of the nursery have been procured. Some of them are cutlasses, pick axe, shovel, watering can, poly bags, drum, measuring tapes, head pans etc

- Procurement of GOP seeds

One (1) bag of GOP fruits/pods was purchased from old GOP farmers in Akanteng (Eastern Region)

- Land preparation (Clearing of weeds from land and erection of shed)

The selected MTS farmers cleared weeds from the land and also erected a shed that will provide shade for the seedlings



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• Construction of germination beds



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Before the seedlings were transferred to the poly bags, they have raised for some few weeks on the germination beds. The seeds were spread over on the 4 beds. This process is known as **broadcasting** of the seeds. Watering of the seeds was done twice a day (morning and evening) to enhance early germination of the seeds.



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Female farmers split opening the GOP fruits/pods for the seeds

- Filling of 12,000 poly bags with black soil.

The farmers filled the procured poly bags with black soil whilst the seeds were on the germination beds.



- The GOP farmers filling the poly bags with black soil at the nursery

- Transplanting of the seedlings from the germination beds to the poly bags.

The broadcast seeds germinated after 21 days. When they develop 3 or 4 leaves, they were removed from the beds placed in the head pans and transplanted on to the filled poly bags. Before this process, the poly bags were watered.



- Farmers busily transplanting the germinated seeds on the poly bags at the nursery

- Watering of the transplanted seedlings

Watering was done in the morning and the evening during the first week after transplanting for the young seedlings to grow well. After the first week watering was reduced to morning only as the transplanted seedlings started developing additional leaves.

NURSERY MAINTENANCE

Routine nursery maintenance was done during all stages of nursery. This included removing of weeds from the poly bags, clearing the nursery site of weeds, replacing dead seedlings etc.

OUTCOMES

- The MTS farmers have gained knowledge in raising GOP seedlings
- Twelve thousand (12,000) GOP seedlings have been raised by the MTS farmers
- The farmers have access to GOP seedlings for planting on their farms

Reporting Officers

Kobia Tieku

Owusu Asare

ITTO PROJECT – COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISES

REPORT ON COMMUNITY MOBILISATION, SENSITISATION AND SELECTION OF FARMERS FOR BEEKEEPING ENTERPRISE – AUGUST, 2011

INTRODUCTION

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) project being implemented in the 10 selected communities in the Atwima Mponua District in Ashanti region seeks to address the issues of sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation. This will be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest resource development and the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs.

The target beneficiaries of the project are the Modified Taungya farmers in the 10 communities who are already farming in the Tano Ofin Forest reserve. The 10 communities are Kyereyaso, Bofaso, Asuontaa, Nyinahin, Kramokrom, Akantansu, Saakrom, Apenimadi, Kunsu Dotiem and Akwaboraso. The NTFPs to be developed and integrated into the farmers farming systems are Beekeeping, Grains of Paradise and Black Pepper.

Beekeeping is the first among the 3 NTFPs to be executed under the project. There was therefore the need to carry out community mobilization, sensitization and selection of farmers for this activity.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

- Selection of 3 communities
- Community mobilization and sensitization
- Selection of farmers for the beekeeping activity
- Selection of carpenters to be trained in bee-hives construction

(A) Selection and visit to 3 communities

Three (3) communities among the ten (10) were selected for this activity. The communities are Kyereyaso, Bofaso and Asuontaa. The 3 communities are along the same corridor and this will facilitate easy monitoring. Also the necessary impact will be felt during project evaluation. Marketing of the produce will be easier and convenient for both the producers and the buyers.

(B) Community mobilization and sensitization

Community meetings were held with the Modified Taungya Farmers in the 3 communities. During the meetings the farmers were sensitized on the following:

- Economic importance of beekeeping
- Materials needed for beekeeping
- Marketing

Issues raised by farmers at the meeting

Some of the issues raised by the farmers in all the 3 communities during the meetings were as follows:

- Will RUDEYA support the beneficiary farmers with logistics such as hives and protective clothes?
- Will the hives be placed in the Taungya farms or in farms outside the forest reserve? In one community the distance to the forest is far. The safety of the hives when it is far i.e. theft
- Can one farmer engage in all the 3 NTFPs?
- In case RUDEYA provides the initial logistics to the farmers will it be repaid?
- Marketing. Will there be a guaranteed and sustainable market for the produce?

We tried and answered most of the questions but referred some for more clarifications during the beekeeping training workshop

Attendance at the 3 community meetings were as follows

NAME OF COMMUNITY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
KYEREYASO	34	24	58
BOFASO	30	11	41
ASUONTAA	28	18	46

(C) Selection of farmers for beekeeping

In all (fifty) 50 farmers were selected from the 3 communities for this activity. The number of farmers to be selected from a community was based on the numerical strength of taungya farmers there. Kyereyaso has a greater number of farmers than Bofaso and Asuontaa so twenty (20) farmers were selected from there whilst fifteen (15) each were selected from Bofaso and Asuontaa.

The selected farmers are listed below

NO	NAME	SEX	COMMUNITY
1	OTI SRAHA	M	ASUONTAA
2	KWAKU AGYEI	M	- DO -
3	HAWA ALI	F	- DO -
4	JOE KWARTENG	M	- DO -
5	KOFI MANU	M	- DO -
6	CHARLES FIAKORME	M	- DO -
7	YAKUBU KUSSASE	M	- DO -
8	KWABENA GRUSHIE	M	- DO -
9	ALI AGYEI	M	- DO -
10	KWAKU BADU	M	- DO -
11	JOSEPH KWAKWA	M	- DO -
12	KOFI NSIAH	M	- DO -
13	AUGUSTINA BENNIN	F	- DO -
14	VIVIAN ARMAH	F	- DO -
15	KOFI LOBIH	M	- DO -
16	NANA KWAKU KUSI	M	BOFASO

17	ADOM BOATENG	M	- DO -
18	ADWOA FOSUAH	F	- DO -
19	EMMANUEL BEMPAH	M	- DO -
20	YAA BIRAGO	F	- DO -
21	KWASI OWUSU	M	- DO -
22	AKOSUA DUFIE	F	- DO -
23	PHILIP AWUNI	M	- DO -
24	ABENA AFRAKOMAH	F	- DO -
25	ABUDU MUMUNI	M	- DO -
26	AKWASI TEDZI	M	- DO -
27	KWAME AZOMA	M	- DO -
28	AKUA ASANTEWAA	F	- DO -
29	KWABENA ASARE	M	- DO -
30	ABENA BOAHEMAA	F	- DO -
31	AMMA KONADU	F	KYEREYASO
32	SAMUEL AWUAH	M	- DO -
33	CHARLES OPOKU	M	- DO -
34	YAW KUSI	M	- DO -
35	NANA GYAU	M	- DO -
36	YAA ABAYAA	F	- DO -
37	KOFI DWAA	M	- DO -
38	YAW KRAH	M	- DO -
39	STEPHEN OWUSU ANSAH	M	- DO -
40	PERCY ASAMOAH	M	- DO -
41	ANTHONY ACQUAH	M	- DO -
42	NANA C. K.	M	- DO -
43	MARGARET AMANKWAA	F	- DO -
44	AFUA AKYAA	F	- DO -
45	AKUA AFRIYIE	F	- DO -
46	CHARITY AGYEIWAA	F	- DO -
47	AGYEI MANU	M	- DO -
48	KWADWO DAMPTEY	M	- DO -
49	MAXWELL ASARE	M	- DO -
50	KOFI NTI	M	- DO -

MALE – 35 (70%) FEMALE – 15 (30%)

(D) Selection of carpenters to be trained in bee-hives construction

Ten (10) carpenters were selected from the 3 communities to be trained in the construction of bee-hives. This will afford the beekeepers who want to increase their hives and others who want to replicate get access to the hives within reach and also at affordable price. It will also serve as a job opportunity for the carpenters.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Friday, 26th August 2011 has been fixed as the date for the beekeeping training workshop for the selected 50 farmers at Nyinahin District Assembly Hall

The training of the carpenters in bee-hives construction has also been slated for 30th and 31st August 2011 at Kyereyaso

ITTO PROJECT – JUNE, 2012

ENRICHMENT OF YOUNG FOREST PLANTATIONS WITH SELECTED NTFPs FOR LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND SUPPORT OF FOREST FRINGE COMMUNITIES IN ATWIMA MPONUA DISTRICT OF GHANA, IN ORDER TO SECURE AND PROTECT THE RESOURCES ON A SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT BASIS.

REPORT ON DISTRIBUTION OF GRAINS OF PARADISE (GOP) SEEDLINGS TO SELECTED MTS FARMERS

INTRODUCTION

The ITTO project being implemented in the Atwima Mponua District seeks to address the issues of sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation. This will be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest resource development and the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs.

Seedlings of Grains of paradise (GOP) that have been raised in the nursery were therefore distributed to the selected and trained MTS farmers who opted for Grains of paradise production.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

The following activities were carried out during the month of June, 2012

- Lining and pegging of farms
- Distribution of GOP seedlings to selected MTS farmers in four (4) communities
- Provision of on-farm technical support to the MTS farmers.

(A)Lining and Pegging

The farmers in each community were taken through how to do lining and pegging on their farms. The farmers were taken to one of the farmer's farm and the correct procedure and planting distance demonstrated to them. The planting distance for GOP is 2mx2m (6ftx6ft).



(B) Distribution of GOP seedlings to MTS farmers.



Twelve thousand (12,000) seedlings of GOP were distributed to sixty (60) farmers in four (4) communities of Akwaboraso, Akentansu, Kramokrom/Sreso and Kwadwo Tire for planting during the month under review. Each farmer planted half an acre with 200 seedlings.

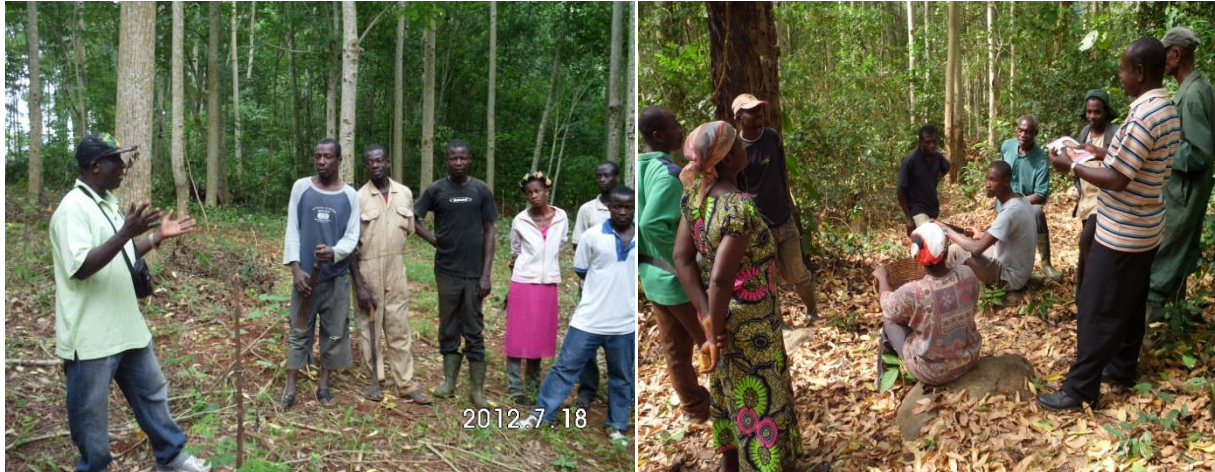
The breakdown is as follows:

NO	NAME OF COMMUNITY	NO. OF FARMERS	MALE	FEMALE	QUANTITY SUPPLIED	ACREAGE
1	Akwaboraso	15	8	7	3000	7.50
2	Sreso/Kramokrom	25	12	13	5000	12.50
3	Kwadwo Tire	10	3	7	2000	5.00
4	Akentansu	10	5	5	2000	5.00
	TOTAL	60	28	32	12,000	30.00

Male – 47%, Female – 53 %

(C) Provision of on-farm technical support to the MTS farmers

The farmers were given on- farm technical support by the field staff of RUDEYA in the form of demonstrating to them the correct planting distance, how to plant the seedlings from the poly bags and how to maintain the plants.



OUTCOMES

- 60 MTS farmers have cultivated 30 acres of plantation land with 12,000 GOP seedlings
- The 60 MTS farmers have acquired knowledge in good agricultural practices.
- 60 MTS farmers have cleared/tended 30 acres of cedrella plantation land of weeds.
- There is always human presence in the plantation and this will help check illegal activities

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare

Kobia Tieku

ITTO PROJECT

REPORT ON EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR BEEKEEPERS

INTRODUCTION

The ITTO project being piloted in the Tano-Ofin forest reserve seeks to assist the farmers to get land tenure and forest resource rights agreements signed with the FC and also provides them with medium term income from the third year till the trees are harvested. Three (3) NTFPs namely Grains of paradise (GOP), Black pepper (BP) and Beekeeping (honey production) are being implemented to serve this medium term income. One hundred and fifty (150) Modified Taungya System (MTS) farmers are involved in this pilot project.

EXCHANGE VISIT

In line with Outputs 2.5 of the Project which states, 'organize exchange visit among beekeeping farmers', a day's farmer exchange programme was organized for some selected beekeeping farmers from three (3) communities in Atwima Mponua District to Nyamebekyere, a community in Asunafo North District for this purpose. The community has enterprising farmers engaged in beekeeping/honey production.

DATE: 15th September, 2011

PURPOSE

The purpose of the exchange visit was for the beekeepers from Atwima Mponua District to learn and share best practices for honey production.

PARTICIPANTS

Fifty (50) farmers undertook this exchange visit.

ACTIVITIES

Visit to two (2) beekeepers at Nyamebekyere

Visits were also made by the farmers to two (2) beekeepers at Goaso. The beekeepers are Asante Frimpong and Kofi Nti. The farmers were taken through the best practices of beekeeping by the 2 beekeepers. They told them the number of hives that they started with and how they have been able to increase the number significantly. They also advised them to use the first honey sales to make more hives. They told the visiting farmers the incomes they have received from the beekeeping enterprise. They went further to inform them about how they have utilized the derived incomes for the benefits of their families. e.g. Payment of school fees, health care etc.

The beekeepers from Atwima Mponua District enumerated the challenges associated with the colonization of the bee-hives that they are encountering to their two (2) colleagues. The old farmers

advised them on some maintenance culture to undertake and advised them not to lose hope and abandon the non-colonized hives



Enterprising Beekeeper Demonstrating Baiting processes to Visiting Beekeepers

FARMERS IMPRESSIONS ON THE EXCHANGE VISIT

The farmers said the exchange visit has afforded them the opportunity to interact with farmers who are already in the honey production business and who has also made some incomes from it. This has really motivated them. They have also learned from the experiences of the old farmers and this will richly enhance their production. Through this visit, they have also established contacts with the old farmers and this will facilitate the exchange of ideas and issues among themselves. E.g marketing of produce

The general impression of the farmers were that what they have seen and heard from the old farmers, has given them the needed encouragement and motivation to work hard as there is more to achieve in the enterprise.



Enterprising Beekeeper Sharing His Experience with Visiting Beekeepers

OUTCOMES

Fifty (50) honey producers from three communities in Atwima Mponua District have shared and learned best practices for honey production from fellow farmers in Asunafo North District.

CONCLUSION

The exchange visit organized for the Beekeeping farmers was a success as the farmers learned and shared new and best practices in honey production with their colleague farmers.

ITTO PROJECT

BEEKEEPING CONSULTANT'S MONITORING VISIT TO BEEKEEPERS IN THE PROJECT AREA

INTRODUCTION

Beekeeping is one of the three (3) NTFPs alongside Grains of Paradise (GOP) and Black Pepper that are being piloted under the ITTO Project in Atwima Mponua District. Fifty (50) MTS farmers have been trained in best practices of beekeeping and also provided with two (2) Bee-hives each to start the enterprise. The farmers have sited and baited the hives but most of the hives have still not colonized with bees. This has been a big challenge to both RUDEYA and the farmers and there was the need to invite a Consultant to assess this challenge and offer appropriate solutions. A day's monitoring visit was undertaken to the communities on the 26th October, 2012 for this purpose.

CONSULTANT – Mr. Michael Adjaloo (Director, Technology Consultancy Centre – KNUST)

OBJECTIVE

To assess the problem associated with the non-colonization of the bee-hives and offer technical advice on how best the situation can be improved.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Separate visits were made to the three (3) Beekeeping communities of Kyereyaso, Bofaso and Asuontaa. In each of the communities, we went to the compartment or the area in the Cedrella plantation where the hives have been sited.

OBSERVATIONS

It was observed that termites are common in the plantation area and as a result they have invaded both the platforms and the hives and this might have contributed to the non- colonization of the hives. Some of the farmers have also abandoned theirs as a result of this. The inside of the hives were dirty and the top bars of some were also spoiled.

Some farmers have also removed their hives from the plantation and placed them in their farmlands and they have colonized.



TECHNICAL ADVICE

The consultant advised them not to lose hope as the hives can still colonize. He observed that the environment in which they have placed the hives were suitable for beekeeping and said it was premature to conclude that the cedrella trees are not good for beekeeping. He said constant monitoring and maintenance of the hives is a key factor in beekeeping. Dirty/engine oil can be used as a check against termites



He advised them to do the following:

- Remove and clean all the non colonized hives and their top bars with napkins/cloth



- Erect platforms with strong woods under shady areas preferably under trees. They can contract carpenters to make movable table type of platforms for them. This type of platform can be moved from one place to another.
- They should use dirty oil on the erected platforms as a check against the invasion of termites.



- The top cover of the hives should be covered with rubber carpets as a check against rainfall which will ultimately destroy them.



- The hives should be baited again with bee wax. In the absence of bee wax lime can be used.
- They should regularly bait and monitor the hives till colonization is achieved. Colonization is rarely achieved after single bait

OUTCOME

Fifty (50) Beekeepers have gained additional knowledge in best practices of beekeeping

CONCLUSION

The hope of the beekeepers to get their hives colonized has been heightened following the technical advice they have received from the consultant. It is envisaged that the beekeepers will do as directed by the consultant and when this is done most of the hives will eventually colonize.

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare & Kobia Tiekou

**ITTO PROJECT – COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT
ENTERPRISES**

**REPORT ON COMMUNITY MOBILISATION, SENSITISATION AND SELECTION
OF FARMERS FOR GRIANS OF PARADISE (GOP) ENTERPRISE**



DECEMBER, 2011

INTRODUCTION

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) project being implemented in the 10 selected communities in the Atwima Mponua District in Ashanti region seeks to address the issues of sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation. This will be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest resource development and the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs.

The target beneficiaries of the project are the Modified Taungya farmers in the 10 communities who are already farming in the Tano Ofin Forest reserve. The 10 communities are Kyereyaso, Bofaso, Asuontaa, Kwadwo Tire, Kramokrom/Sreso Tinpom, Akantansu, Awadua, Nyinanufu, Nyamebekyere and Akwaboraso. The NTFPs to be developed and integrated into the farmers farming systems are Beekeeping, Grains of Paradise and Black Pepper.

Grain of Paradise (GOP) is the second among the 3 NTFPs to be executed under the project, the first being beekeeping. There was therefore the need to carry out community mobilization, sensitization and selection of farmers for the GOP activity in the 4 selected communities to meet Output 2.6 specified in the proposal.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

- Selection of 4 communities
- Community mobilization and sensitization on GOP as a small scale forest enterprise.
- Selection of farmers for the GOP activity

(A) Selection and visit to the 4 selected communities

Four (4) communities among the ten (10) were selected for this activity. The communities are Akwaboraso, Akantansu, Kramokrom/Sreso Tinpom and Kwadwo Tire. The 4 communities are along the same corridor and this will facilitate easy monitoring. Also the necessary impact will be felt during project evaluation. Marketing of the produce will be easier and convenient for both the producers and the buyers.

(B) Community mobilization and sensitization

Community meetings were held with the Modified Taungya Farmers in the 4 communities.



Meeting with Taungya Farmers at Akwaboraso and Sreso Timpom/Kramokrom

During the meetings the farmers were sensitized on the following:

- Economic importance of the Grains of Paradise (GOP) and its development as a small scale forest enterprise.
- As medicinal and food supplement
- As a medium term income before the Taungya trees are harvested and the benefits shared.
- Short gestation period i.e. one and half years
- Establishment of a GOP nursery.
- Marketing. Both local and international market.

Issues raised by farmers at the meeting

Some of the issues raised by the farmers in all the 4 communities during the meetings were as follows:

- Will RUDEYA support the beneficiary farmers with the planting stock and money for weeding their farms before planting?
- Will the plants be planted in the Taungya farms or in farms outside the forest reserve?
- Can one farmer engage in all the 3 NTFPs?
- In case RUDEYA provides the initial logistics to the farmers will it be repaid?
- Marketing. Will there be a guaranteed and sustainable market for the produce?



Registration of interested farmers at Sreso Tinpon/Kwadwo Tire

Attendance at the 4 community meetings were as follows

NAME OF COMMUNITY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
AKWABORASO	30	33	63
KRAMOKROM/SRESO TIMPOM	36	32	68
KWADWO TIRE	24	20	44
AKANTANSU	26	23	49

(C) Selection of farmers for GOP farming

After the sensitization meetings, the option was given to the farmers who were interested to participate in the project. In all sixty (60) farmers were selected from the 4 communities for this activity. During the selection process, priority was given to the women as the cultivation of GOP is generally considered to be activity for women.

The selected 60 farmers are listed below

NO	NAME	SEX	COMMUNITY
1	OSEI PETER	M	AKWABORASO
2	EMMANUEL AGYEI	M	- DO -
3	KWABENA MENSAH	M	- DO -
4	MARY GYAMFI	F	- DO -
5	FELICIA KONADU	F	- DO -
6	AKOSUA POKUAA	F	- DO -
7	ADWOA DONKOR	F	- DO -
8	ADWOA NYARKO	F	- DO -
9	AKOSUA AMPORFOWAA	F	- DO -
10	ALIGATU SIAKA	F	- DO -
11	FATIMA SALIFU	F	- DO -
12	YAW POKU	M	- DO -
13	ADWOA ARKOH	F	- DO -
14	MICHEAL K. KARIKARI	M	- DO -
15	MARIAMA KUSAASE ISSAKA	F	- DO -
16	MARTIN BARNOR	M	AKANTANSU
17	OTENG MENSAH	M	- DO -
18	ABENA HAWA	F	- DO -
19	ENOCK TAWIAH	M	- DO -
20	ABENA KWARTENMAA	F	- DO -
21	GLADYS ACHIAA	F	- DO -
22	KOFI TIBOAH	M	- DO -
23	ISSAKA NUHU	M	- DO -
24	JANET ATAA	F	- DO -
25	AKUA KWAMPA	F	- DO -
26	AKUA AFRIYIE	F	- DO -
27	AKUA FOKUO	F	- DO -
28	MARY OSEI	F	- DO -
29	ELIZABETH AMA BIOH	F	- DO -
30	CECILIA DONKOR	F	- DO -
31	PETER TETTEH	M	KRAMOKROM/SRESO TINPOM
32	ABENA ADOMAKO	F	- DO -
33	KWAKU TWUMASI	M	- DO -
34	NARTEY NOAH	M	- DO -
35	GRACE SAKYIWAA	F	- DO-
36	AMA DASEBRE	F	- DO -
37	VIVIAN BOAKYEWAA	F	- DO -
38	KWAME AWUAH	M	- DO -
39	ELIZABETH FREMAH	F	- DO -
40	GABRIEL OWUSU	M	- DO -

41	KWASI MARFO	M	- DO -
42	TETTEY ISAAC	M	- DO -
43	ASAFO ADJEI	M	- DO -
44	YAW NKRUMAH	M	- DO -
45	MARY AMPORFOWAA	F	- DO -
46	ALICE ANTWI	F	- DO -
47	MARY AFRAH	F	- DO -
48	KYEI BAFFOUR	M	- DO -
49	CECILIA OFORIWAA	F	- DO -
50	SARAH AKYAA	F	- DO -
51	P.A. BOATENG	M	KWADWO TIRE
52	ABENA FOKUO	F	- DO -
53	KWABENA NSIAH	M	- DO-
54	AKWASI MONO	M	- DO-
55	ANNA DEDE	F	- DO-
56	ABENA TIWAAH	F	- DO -
57	ELIZABETH AMANTUO	F	- DO -
58	MARY FOKUO	F	- DO -
59	KWABENA BADU	M	- DO -
60	JANET AGYAPONMAA	F	- DO-

MALE – 24 (40%) FEMALE – 36 (60%)

Selection of Nursery Site

A site in Kramokrom was selected to be the nursery center to raise seedlings for the farmers. The site is near a permanent source of water for the convenience of the nursery.

OUTCOMES

- Sixty (60) Modified Taungya Farmers from four (4) communities along Tano-Ofin forest reserve in Atwima Mponua district selected for GOP farming.
- More women than men were selected for GOP farming

CONCLUSION

The meeting with the Taungya farmers was successful due to the cooperation of the farmers involved in the activity. The farmers were informed that the date and venue for the GOP training workshop will be communicated to them.

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare

Kobia Tiekku

LIST OF FARMERS SUPPLIED WITH GOP SEEDLINGS

NO	NAME	SEX	COMMUNITY	QUANTITY SUPPLIED
1	OSEI PETER	M	AKWABORASO	200
2	EMMANUEL AGYEI	M	- DO -	200
3	KWABENA MENSAH	M	- DO -	200
4	MARY GYAMFI	F	- DO -	200
5	FELICIA KONADU	F	- DO -	200
6	AKOSUA POKUAA	F	- DO -	200
7	ADWOA DONKOR	F	- DO -	200
8	ADWOA NYARKO	F	- DO -	200
9	AKOSUA AMPORFOWAA	F	- DO -	200
10	ALIGATU SIAKA	F	- DO -	200
11	FATIMA SALIFU	F	- DO -	200
12	YAW POKU	M	- DO -	200
13	ADWOA ARKOH	F	- DO -	200
14	MICHEAL K. KARIKARI	M	- DO -	200
15	MARIAMA KUSAASE ISSAKA	F	- DO -	200
16	MARTIN BARNOR	M	AKANTANSU	200
17	OTENG MENSAH	M	- DO -	200
18	ABENA HAWA	F	- DO -	200
19	ENOCK TAWIAH	M	- DO -	200
20	ABENA KWARTENMAA	F	- DO -	200
21	GLADYS ACHIAA	F	- DO -	200
22	KOFI TIBOAH	M	- DO -	200
23	ISSAKA NUHU	M	- DO -	200
24	JANET ATAA	F	- DO -	200
25	AKUA KWAMPA	F	- DO -	200
26	AKUA AFRIYIE	F	- DO -	200
27	AKUA FOKUO	F	- DO -	200
28	MARY OSEI	F	- DO -	200
29	ELIZABETH AMA BIOH	F	- DO -	200
30	CECILIA DONKOR	F	- DO -	200
31	PETER TETTEH	M	KRAMOKROM/SRESO	200
32	ABENA ADOMAKO	F	- DO -	200
33	KWAKU TWUMASI	M	- DO -	200
34	NARTEY NOAH	M	- DO -	200
35	GRACE SAKYIWAA	F	- DO -	200
36	AMA DASEBRE	F	- DO -	200
37	VIVIAN BOAKYEWAA	F	- DO -	200
38	KWAME AWUAH	M	- DO -	200
39	ELIZABETH FREMAH	F	- DO -	200
40	GABRIEL OWUSU	M	- DO -	200
41	KWASI MARFO	M	- DO -	200

42	TETTEY ISAAC	M	- DO -	200
43	ASAFO ADJEI	M	- DO -	200
44	YAW NKRUMAH	M	- DO -	200
45	MARY AMPORFOWAA	F	- DO -	200
46	ALICE ANTWI	F	- DO -	200
47	MARY AFRAH	F	- DO -	200
48	KYEI BAFFOUR	M	- DO -	200
49	CECILIA OFORIWAA	F	- DO -	200
50	SARAH AKYAA	F	- DO -	200
51	P.A. BOATENG	M	KWADWO TIRE	200
52	ABENA FOKUO	F	- DO -	200
53	KWABENA NSIAH	M	- DO-	200
54	AKWASI MONO	M	- DO-	200
55	ANNA DEDE	F	- DO-	200
56	ABENA TIWAAH	F	- DO -	200
57	ELIZABETH AMANTUO	F	- DO -	200
58	MARY FOKUO	F	- DO -	200
59	KWABENA BADU	M	- DO -	200
60	JANET AGYAPONMAA	F	- DO-	200
	TOTAL		-	12,000

MALE – 24 (40%) FEMALE – 36 (60%)

ITTO PROJECT

MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

REPORT ON BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SKILLS TRAINING ORGANISED FOR NTFP FARMERS IN ATWIMA MPONUA DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

One hundred and fifty (150) Modified Taungya System (MTS) farmers selected from 10 communities have been trained in NTFPs like Beekeeping, Black Pepper and Grains of Paradise since the inception of the project in 2010. They have also been supplied with production materials. At this level, they were operating on individual basis and it was difficult to engage them to undertake other functions that will enhance their work.

There was therefore the need to train them on basic business management skills like book keeping, profit and loss account, marketing and group enterprise development in line with **specific objective (2.3.2)** of the Project. After this training they will be well equipped to deal/engage with agri-business institutions for support.

A day's training workshop was organized for sixty (60) farmers on the above issue at the District Assembly Hall, Nyinahin in the Atwima Mponua District on **4th September 2012**.

PARTICIPANTS

MTS farmers – 150 (50 beekeepers, 60 GOP and 40 Black pepper) Male – 83, FEMALE –67)

RUDEYA – Mr. Kofi Kyeremateng Tiekou, Owusu Asare and Kwasi Kobia Tiekou

RMSC (FC) – Mrs. Emmanuella Ntiamoah Sarpong

BAC (REP) – Nicholas Korley

FSD – Mark Aidoo

COOPERATIVES – Mr. Sarfo Boansi

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to train the selected NTFP farmers on basic business management skills and group enterprise development for the management of their enterprises.

WELCOME ADDRESS AND INTRODUCTIONS – Kobia Tiekou (RUDEYA)

Formal introductions of the farmers, other invited stakeholders and RUDEYA staff were done. The participants were advised to take the training workshop seriously as it will go a long way to assist them not only in the ITTO project but also in other related activities.



A section of the participants listening to a Resource Person at the training workshop

AN UPDATE OF THE ITTO PROJECT – Owusu Asare (RUDEYA)

The participants were taken through the updates/activities of the project so far

- . About 600 MTS have been registered under the project and what remains to be done is the signing of the agreements by the FC.
- Sixty (60) farmers in 4 communities namely Akentansu, Akwaboraso, Kwadwo Tire and Sreso/Kramokrom have cultivated a total of 30 acres with 12,000 GOP seedlings in the plantation after going through sensitization and training on good agricultural practices of the crop.
- Forty (40) farmers in three (3) communities namely Awadua, Nyinanufu and Nyamebekyere have also planted a total of 20 acres with 4000 BP seedlings after going through sensitization and training on good agricultural practices of the crop.
- Forty (40) selected farmers from three (3) communities namely Kyereyaso, Bofaso and Asuontaa have been supplied with two (2) bee-hives each and other equipments after undergoing training in best practices of honey production. The hives have been sited and baited. Some have colonized with the rest yet to colonize.
- Tending of the trees have taken place in areas that the farmers are implementing the plant NTFPs. This will enhance the growth of the trees as they will be free from weeds that will compete with them for food.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SKILLS TRAINING – Mr. Nicholas Korley (District Director, REP) and Sarfo Boansi (District Director, Dept of Cooperatives), Nyinahin.



A RESOURCE PERSON MAKING HIS PRESENTATION TO THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE WORKSHOP

He took the participants through the rudiments of group formation/cooperatives.

- Join a group to gain knowledge, progress and development
- Must be above 18years of age and of sound mind
- It must be voluntary and no religion barrier.
- There must be regulations to run the group successfully
- Bye-laws can also developed
- Each group/cooperative must have elected Executives to run it affairs.
- Each position in a group goes with roles and responsibility and this entails sacrifice, loyalty and honesty
- Three key points for Group sustainability are meetings, dues and discipline

Types of contributions for group sustainability

- **Share capital.** Initial money paid by each member as seed money for the group member who resigns is eligible to what he paid.
- **Entrance/Registration fee.** Money paid by each member to recognize him/her as a member of the group.
- **Monthly dues.** This is a monthly contribution by each member. This money is used to run the group
- **Levy.** An agreed quantity/percentage taken from the sale of a commodity for the welfare of the group.

He also highlighted on the basic management and records keeping. He mentioned the following as some of the basic records that need to be kept to ensure business growth and survival.

- Cash Book – Cash book is used to records all cash transactions.
- Purchases Book – To record all purchases made.
- Sales Books – To record all sales made.

- Debtors Book – To record all debts.
- Creditors Book – To record all goods and services credited
- Receipts and Invoices – All receipts and invoices well kept.
- Stock control – Periodic check on all assets, goods and services should be made.

QUESTIONS

Some of the important issues raised by the participants were as follows:

- When a member is leaving the group can he collect his contributions?

The response was that it is only the share capital that can be collected

- How can they as a group converge at one particular place for a meeting since they come from different villages?

RUDEYA will continue to assist them till they take off then we will withdraw.

- Is it compulsory for every NTFP farmer to join the group?

It is the objective of RUDEYA to bring them together so that they will have one voice to negotiate for things like good prices, financial assistance etc to better their lives. On the strength of this it is advisable that every farmer joins the group.

MARKETING – Prince Yeboah Manu - ASNAPP

He informed the participants that all the NTFPs they have cultivated are sold locally and in West African Countries. The plant NTFPs has market opportunities in foreign countries like South Africa, USA, Europe and Asia. He therefore called on the farmers to be serious with whatever they are producing and that marketing won't be a problem.



CLOSING REMARKS - Kofi Kyerematen Tiekū–, President of RUDEYA

In his closing remarks, the President of the organization advised the participants to take the project seriously, because the continuation of the project depends on them. He further told the participants to be serious with the group they have formed since it will help them to deal with other agri-business institutions. They must see it as their own group so they have to work harder for its sustainability.

Concluding, the President said RUDEYA will continue to offer technical support to the group for its sustainability.



ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Before the election, some participants were of the opinion that the election should be postponed because majority of the members were not there whilst others were of the opposing view. Upon deliberation, the whole house agreed that all Taungya heads in the house should be elected to form the nucleus of District Executives.

They also agreed that, other community executives should be elected in various communities and names submitted to RUDEYAs office.

The names of the Taungya Heads are as follows,

Kyei Baffour	– Kramokrom/Sreso
P.A.Boateng	– Kojo-Tire
Atta Ntiamoah	– Onyinanufu
Osei Peter	– Akwaburaso
Anthony Acquah	– Kyereyasoo
Martin Barnnor	– Akantansu
David Joe Kwarteng	- Asuonta
Kwame Boakye	– Nyamebekyere
Stephen Wiredu	– Awaduwa
Adom Boateng	- Bofaso

OUTCOME

- One hundred and fifty (150) NTFP farmers made up of 83 men and 67 women from 10 communities have been trained in business management skills like book keeping, profit and loss account marketing etc
- One hundred and fifty (150) NTFP farmers made up of 83 men and 67 women from 10 communities have been trained in Group formation and enterprises development
- Three (3) NTFP farmer groups namely Beekeeping, Grains of Paradise (GOP) and Black Pepper (BP) have been formed.
- One hundred and fifty (150) NTFP farmers have been trained in processing and marketing of NTFPs

CONCLUSION

The training was a success as the presentations were well delivered and the farmers were also free to ask questions throughout the training session. The other stakeholders (FSD, RMSC-FC) that were invited took turns to assure the beneficiary farmers of their support in the execution of the project. They therefore advised them to take what they have been taught seriously.

Reporting Officers

Owusu Asare

Kobia Tiekou