

Food Security Project

Mid-term Report June 2014



Promoting Food Productivity and Food Security

- o Ensuring farmers' mobilization and social network
- o Awareness raising on organic farming and improved farming practices
- o Provision of micro credit services
- o Encouraging migrants to use their remittances for investment

Table of Contents

1.0 Executive Summary	3
1.1 Introduction	6
1.2 Institutional Capacity	7
2.0 Activities Implemented in Ghana	8
2.1 Mobilisation and Registration.....	8
2.2 Workshop for farmers.....	8
2.3 Provision of micro credit services and Distribution	11
2.4 Trip to Ghana and visitation trips to project site	15
2.5 Conference Organised for farmers	15
2.6 Formation of AfroEuro Ghana and youth club.....	20
3.1 Activities in the Netherlands:.....	21
3. 1 Business meeting with Spark	21
3.2 Research on vegetable greenhouse farming	22
3.3 Susu and Savings Scheme: Encouraging migrants to save.....	23
4.0 Results	25
5.0 Challenges.....	25
6.0 Conclusion	26
7.0 Recommendations	28

1.0 Executive Summary

This is a midterm report capturing ongoing activities under the food security project. The basic aim for implementing the project is to encourage Ghanaian migrants in the Netherlands to contribute towards extensive agricultural developmental projects by investing their remittances, human and social capitals in women, youth and subsistence farming groups in Ghana. The motivation for project implementation has been to ensure food security, food accessibility and food utilization in Ghana. Furthermore, the project seeks to create employment opportunities for the youth and to reduce irregular migration in Ghana.

The project targets the youth, women and small scale subsistence farmers in Ghana who lack the resources to produce in large scale or to sell at competitive prices due to their inability to ensure proper food packing or food processing. Also the project supports mobilization of farmers by creating a social network system for the farmers.

The Food security report is being implemented by AfroEuro Foundation with support of other organizations and individual groups such as the Ghanaian migrant community in the Netherlands, Cordaid, Wenchi district Office, Premium foods-Ghana, Suyani Polytechnic and other development partners.

Activities under the project are being implemented basically in Ghana, but also in the Netherlands. The core objective for project implementation is to achieve food security and improve the living standards of poor farmers in Wenchi- Ghana.

Currently the foundation has been able to mobilize about 270 farmers from over 5 different villages within Wenchi District in Ghana. The foundation has also provided information on organic farming to farmers. There has been awareness raising and campaign on the project both in Ghana and in the Netherlands. Farmers registered under the project have also received micro credit services in the package of fertilizer and improved maize seeds. The foundation also assists farmers in other minor activities such as planting, plowing and weeding farmlands. The project seeks to involve the youth and young graduates so the AfroEuro Ghana branch has been lunched to get youth to be more involved in play active part in project implementation.

Furthermore, other activities being undertaken in the Netherlands includes entrepreneurship development promotion among Ghanaian migrant community in the Netherlands. There has also been a research conducted to investigate the possibility of entering into vegetable greenhouse production in Ghana by the Ghanaian migrants upon return to home country.

Moreover, migrants are being encouraged to save and put some money aside so they can use for investment purposes. The AF Susu and Savings and Loan scheme has been introduced to motivate more migrants to form a social support network system which can encourage migrants to frequently save for business purposes.

Reflection on outcome of the project indicates positive responses and results. There has been increased women economic empowerment access to land and credit in Buoko. Farmers have now been formed into a social support network system. Farmers are being assisted in marketing of their food produce. A value chain system has been created and farmers, producers, markets, and buyers are being connected to support farmers gain more income on their food produce.

The AfroEuro food security project has been very successful although there are challenges in project implementation. The challenges faced in project implementation include limited access to funding capital; lack of adequate field agricultural farmers and limited access to land for farmers.

On the problem of insufficient funding capital for project implementation, there has been campaign on the food security project within Netherlands and Ghana to promote investors and migrants invest in the project.

Also with lack of adequate field agricultural officers in Wenchi, AfroEuro foundation is partnering with Suyani polytechnic to engage the services of students in the agricultural field so they can learn on the project and add their knowledge to project implementation to help farmers.

In addition, farmers have complained that they have limited access to land. The foundation plans to support the negotiation process between farmers and land owners. The foundation also encourages the local chief to intervene whenever necessary to enable farmers get easy access to farmland to boost food production.

Farmers have also been encouraged to join the farmer's social network to give them a representation and a voice to facilitate negotiations.

The report concludes that the food security project is a very laudable project which needs to be continued, promoted and supported. There is need to raise awareness on the project to encourage more farmers join the social network system which is being formed. There is also need to do promotion among the migrant community to ensure that many more migrants invest their remittances in the project.

The project should continue educating farmers about using very limited chemicals for farming and also about using the new improved maize seeds during planting seasons. Farmers should be encouraged to sow in lines and cultivate other good farming practices to maximize food production.

In the near future the foundation can discuss with community chiefs and lobby on behalf of farmers so enhance farmers' access for land for farming.

Migrants need to be encouraged to continue practicing a saving culture and invest their remittances in the food security project as investment purposes.

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a basis for a midterm assessment of the food security project in Ghana. The report accounts for activities conducted from December 2013 till June 2014.

The vision of the food security project is to encourage Ghanaian migrants in the Netherlands to contribute towards extensive agricultural developmental projects by investing their remittances, human and social capitals in women, youth and subsistence farming groups in Ghana.

The AfroEuro Food Security Project is a poverty reduction initiative implemented since 2010. The project emerged as a result of the Migration and Development Program implemented by AfroEuro in 2007.

The project is an investment initiative for migrants and it encourages migrants to use their productive resources, skills and services in the agricultural and non agricultural production in country of origin by providing collateral for credit to be used as a back up capital for poor rural farmers in country of origin.

The motivation for project implementation has been to ensure food security, food accessibility and food utilization in Ghana. Furthermore, the project seeks to create employment opportunities for the youth and to reduce irregular migration in Ghana.

It targets the youth, women and small scale subsistence farmers in Ghana who lack the resources to produce in large scale or to sell at competitive prices due to their inability to ensure proper food packing or food processing. The project supports in mobilization of farmers by creating a social network system for the farmers.

Basically, our target group includes:

- o Women, youth, and subsistence farmers in Ghana Wenchi and Tamale
- o Migrants in the Diaspora / Netherlands
- o Local community leaders in Ghana
- o Knowledgeable experts in Ghana and Netherlands
- o Manufacturing industries involved in food processing and packaging

Our primary target group is farmers engaged in maize, Soya and vegetable farming in Buoko Wenchi and Tamale– Ghana. Wenchi is a community district located within the Northern part of Ghana. The region falls under the Brong Ahafo Region. The people in

Wenchi are resource poor peasants with inadequate human and material resources. Agriculture is the main source of income in this area, but due to lack of resources, they end up only practicing subsistence farming. Many of these local farmers work as farmers but they lack adequate information on adequate farming practices.

1.2 Institutional Capacity

AfroEuro Foundation's role is to connect the various actors' involved in the food supply and production chain to ensure food security. The foundation assists in farmers' mobilization. We also organize workshop to inform and educate farmers about organic farming and improved farming techniques. We aim at connecting Ghanaian migrants in Netherland to Subsistent farmers in Ghana and local expertise in Ghana and Netherland to add value to farmers' productive work, change their socio economic conditions and build a social support network system.

The food security project takes a multi stake holders approach in its implementation. The project is implemented with support of other organizations or individuals who assist in training farmers, providing financial support and needed services, marketing of farmers harvested produce and supply of farm chemicals.

So far, our key stakeholders have been:

1. Premium food: who assist in marketing farmers harvested maize produce
2. Ghanaian Migrants in Netherlands who contributes their remittances capital to invest in project implementation
3. Suyani Polytechnic: offers technical knowledge on agric farming practices
4. Wenchi District office: Provides agricultural officers teaches farmers in-depth knowledge about farming
5. Cordaid: Provides financial support in project implementation

The foundation has available in Buoko Wenchi 2 tractors and 1 harrow operating on the project.

The Human resource personnel supporting in Project Implementation in both Netherlands and Ghana are:

Project Director- Vincent Gambrah

Project Officer Ghana – Bismark Osei

Agric Officer- Mr Sammuel

Expertise / Adviser: Dr Gladys

Tractor Driver: Abdulai

Buoko Community Chief: Nana Addai Sekyeredu (Adviser)
Deborah Jansen (Student Intern)
Kenneth Brown (Student Intern)

2.0 Activities Implemented in Ghana

Most of the activities implemented during project implementation are from December 2013 to June 2014. Activities implemented in Ghana are mentioned as follows:

- o Mobilisation and registration of farmers
- o Workshop by organized for farmers with Agric officer
- o Provision of micro credit services and distribution
- o Trip to Ghana by Project Director and visitation trips to project sites
- o Conference organised on minimization of farm chemicals or organic farming
- o Formation of AfroEuro Ghana / Youth Club

2.1 Mobilisation and Registration

So far, there has been mobilization and sensitization of about 270 farmers in Wenchi. Out of this number, 200 farmers have been registered. Most of these farmers are from over 5 villages within Wenchi Districts such as Buoko, Bronoso, Ahwene, New Wenchi, Bonsua, Asuofiri. Again the project has involved community leaders in agricultural practices, giving them opportunity to meet and engage in social dialogue with the farmers. To facilitate social network, farmers have been encouraged to register their network and this discussion is still ongoing. To facilitate mobilization, an office space has been allocated in Buoko.

2.2 Workshop for farmers

A workshop was organised in February 2014 for farmers at the Buoko Community Centre. This workshop was organized with collaborative effort by the elders and Chief of Buoko and the Agric officer, Mr Sammuel from Buoko district Assembly. During this workshop, the Agric officer taught farmers how to sow in lines and other the importance of using the right kind of maize during planting seasons.

About 200 farmers attended this workshop and it was organized at the community centre in Buoko. During this workshop we also enquired from farmers those willing to use the project tractor to plough their farm land. Farmers also discussed some of the challenges they face during farming season. Abudulai the tractor driver

also made it clear to farmers that the tractor is still available for use so those who needed its usage should not hesitate to contact him whenever necessary. Below are some pictures shared during the workshop



Pictures below are also shows ongoing discussions during the workshop.



2.3 Provision of micro credit services and Distribution

Over 125 youth, women and local farmers have benefited from the micro credit services offered to the registered group. Out of this number 75 are women.

To make the project sustainable, farmers who received micro credit services in 2013/ 2012 have been encouraged to account for services they received from the project. After registration of new and workshop, organic fertilizers, insecticides and new improved maize crops were bought and distributed to farmers in March 2014. The purpose was to encourage farmers and to assist them so they can produce more maize crops. The farmers were also supported by being given a space where they can store their maize after harvest.



Picture above indicates some farmers who received the micro credit services in Buoko.

Pictures below indicate some of the farmers who received micro credit services









2.4 Trip to Ghana and visitation trips to project site

There have been frequent field trips to project Buoko and other surrounding villages by the Project officer and Agric officer in Ghana. Most of these trips are to assess how farmers are doing and also to evaluate best ways to improve on project implementation.

In April 2014, the Project Director in Netherland also embarked on a visitation trip to Ghana to assess progress of project. The duration for this trip was 6 weeks. During his stay in Ghana a series of activities were organized, some of which include conference for the farmers and mobilization of the youth group in Ghana.

2.5 Conference Organised for farmers

A conference was organized for farmers in May 2014. The theme for the conference was “Organic farming Promotion”. The conference was held in Buoko

for farmers within Buoko and other surrounding villages. Farmers were advised to adopt modern farming practices and avoid the overuse of chemicals to ensure a good yield and safeguard public safety.

Participants stressed on the need to produce more food and save the farmlands and also strategize to prevent the use of unnecessary chemicals or limit its usage on farmlands.

Vincent Gambrah, Director of AfroEuro Foundation, informed farmers about the importance of the project. He explained that the project is a poverty oriented initiative that seeks to assist rural farmers to produce sufficient maize crop production. He encouraged farmers to produce enough food that can be marketed to generate income to improve lives through improved diet. He made it clear that the project is there to assist farmers to produce healthier food and also to enable farmers gain knowledge, materials, spray, better seeds and micro credit services with no interest-free. What the organisation seek from farmers is commitment and dedication to their work and focus on produce enough food crops to ensure food security and ensure the project becomes sustainable. Furthermore, Mr. Vincent Gambrah mentioned that the project seeks to help farmers grow maize, soya beans and vegetables to become commercial farmers to improve their living standards.

Another speaker, present at the conference, Abena Owusu Adjapong (a Soil Scientist and Lecturer at Sunyani Polytechnic) disclosed to farmers present that the conference that improper application of fertilizers and weedicide was negatively affecting farmlands and human health. Mrs. Adjapong mentioned that many strange diseases kill a lot of people due to the improper usage of chemicals on crops. She therefore appealed to farmers to adopt organic farming.

Also, Abrokwa Nyame (Information Management Systems officer) at the Agric Department in Wenchi Municipal Assembly said the excessive use of chemicals was endangering to farmlands and soil nutrient. Mr. Abrokwa advised farmers to embark on mixed farming and crop rotation to maintain soil fertility. The lack of extension officers at the Department is making it difficult to encourage farmers to apply modern agricultural practices in their activities.

Furthermore, the Chief of Buoku, Nana Addai Sekyeredu (Chief of Buoko), recommended the Food Security Project and its engagement with local farmers. He advised farmers to adopt modern farming practices to help increase yield.

After the conference, refreshment was served. There was also media coverage of the conference by print media organisations in Ghana such as the Daily Guide and Modern Ghana. Picture below indicates the Chief of Buoko giving a speech during the conference and some farmers present at the conference.



Picture above indicates Mrs Abena Adjapong giving a speech during the conference.



Picture below indicates additional farmers present at the conference

Picture above indicates Mrs. Abena Adjappong and Mr. Bismark Osei (Project Officer in Ghana)



Picture on left is Mr. Vincent Gambrah(Director of AfroEuro Foundation and on right is Mr. Abrokwa Nyame (Information Management Systems at the Wenchi District office)

Picture below also indicates speakers and organizers of the Conference.



2.6 Formation of AfroEuro Ghana and youth club

AfroEuro Foundation has also established a branch in Ghana. The aim is to advance youth entrepreneurship and encourage youth service in local communities within Ghana. The formation of the youth club involves young graduates and students from various tertiary institutions in Ghana. The idea also is to encourage students use their knowledge to help the local farmers who are mostly illiterate. Other social activities are also being organized for the youth in Ghana. For instance in June 2014, one day seminar was organized for the Junior High school leavers and a free eye screening was also performed for attendees. The theme for this seminar was Career Development. Speakers under this seminar were Rev. Alex Adu-Gyamfi, Dr. Gladys from the Ghana Health Service and Mr. Michael Asamoah from the Asanteman Senior High School.

3.1 Activities in the Netherlands:

3. 1 Business meeting with Spark

**AfroEuro Foundation and Spark
present
Entrepreneurship Info Meeting**



Do you have a good business idea you want to realize?

Date: 12 April 2014
Venue: De Burcht, Stortenbekerstraat 201, 2525 SE The Hague
Time: 18:30 - 21:00
Entrance: Free

Theme: Starting Export and Import Business in Ghana

The seminar will provide comprehensive training and coaching on doing business between the Netherlands and Ghana in the import and export trade.

For more information
Tel: 06 10988264 / 070 2055657
Email: info@afroeuro.org
Website: www.afroeuro.org / www.spark-online.org

 **AFROEURO**
Building the Bridge

 **spark**
foster ambition

A business meeting was organized in April 2014 among the Ghanaian Migrant community in The Hague- Netherlands. The purpose of the business meeting was to encourage Ghanaian migrants save and go into entrepreneurship development either in home country or in Netherlands. The meeting was also aimed at building the capacity of business starters who have interest in entering into entrepreneurship.

The key message during the meeting was to enable economic migrants on return have a large positive impact in their societies. The meeting discussed also how migrants can develop new skills, enhance their social networking and acquire knowledge to kick start economic growth in their country upon return.

3.2 Research on vegetable greenhouse farming

A research was conducted in the Netherlands on the food security project. The focus of this research was to examine the possibility of Ghanaian migrants engaging in vegetable greenhouse farm production upon return to home country. The idea of vegetable greenhouse farming for migrants is to create entrepreneurship opportunities for migrants and to help increase food production and ensure food security. Furthermore, the concept is aimed at knowledge transfer to Ghanaian local producers who can be able to produce more for a larger market and also top help improve their livelihood.

The research was conducted by Deborah Dapaah, a student intern. Some of the questions which were asked respondents during the research are; do you have any knowledge on agricultural practices or greenhouse; would you like to invest in vegetable greenhouse in Ghana?, do you know of any buyers / investors who may be willing to engage in vegetable greenhouse production in Ghana. Outcome of this research was positive. Almost all respondents who filled in the questionnaires indicated that they will like to engage in vegetable greenhouse production. However, they do not have much knowledge or experience about greenhouse farming. They also showed that they do not have direct buyers to buy the vegetables of it is produced. However, the research identified that there is the possibility to create a market with available institutions operating in Ghana such as Hotels, restaurants, and schools. Some of these vegetables could also be marketed for local consumption and if it is sufficient it can be exported to the Netherlands.

3.3 Susu and Savings Scheme: Encouraging migrants to save



Need cash fast?

AfroEuro introduces Savings & Loans

- *Easy accessible loans*
- *Direct pay outs*
- ***No interest rates*** **only administrative costs**

Introduction day Saturday June 7th, 2014
18:30 - 21:00
Rijswijkseweg 254, 2516 EH The Hague

Contact : 070 205 56 57
06 10 98 82 64
Info@afroeuro.org

 **AFROEURO**

The Asanteman Club

AfroEuro Foundation continues to encourage migrants to use their remittances for investment purposes in the food security project in Ghana. Our experience shows that, saving and having enough funds to invest in this project has been challenging for many migrants. This challenge is linked to that fact that many migrants often have many needs and desires to fulfill. Such needs/ desires could be due to paying so much bills, paying for school fees for their children, brothers, sisters or other relatives back in destination country or in country of origin.

In view of this, that the foundation introduced the Af Savings and mini credit scheme for migrants in June 2014. The scheme is to encourage migrants put aside some of their regular earnings on monthly basis so as to accumulate into a larger capital to be used for business purposes in home countries. AF micro credit scheme /susu savings seek to raise awareness and encourage migrants to save some money on monthly basis so it will accumulate into a bigger money. Our focus is to raise social awareness among the migrant community and encourage migrants to save some part of their earnings on monthly basis within our scheme. AF Savings and loan scheme will encourage migrants to save money towards address different needs as in paying school fees, buying a plot of land in country of origin, buying a car, performing funeral rites in the event of death of loved ones, marriage ceremony, among many others.

Under this scheme, our core vision has been to motivate migrants to contribute some amount of their earnings into a savings scheme so they can go for this money in times of need. The scheme also gives migrants access to mini loans to meet essential needs and unexpected contingencies. The idea of saving a susu scheme is also to build a social network support system of migrant who are willing to save money and generate their income for investment purpose in the near future.

A research was conducted on the susu and loan scheme by Mr. Kennedy Brown and most migrants were very positive about being members once its fully implemented. The savings and loan scheme is a new idea and its operation is still ongoing.

4.0 Results

The results achieved so far have been:

- Awareness raising on entrepreneurship development and food security for Ghanaian migrants in the Netherlands
- Promotion of migrants to develop a saving culture for business development purposes in country of origin.
- Capacity building and training of farmers on best organic farming practices.
- Increased women economic empowerment access through land and credit
- Provided a secured market for farmers maize produce.
- Encouraged farmers to form social network
- Provided micro credit services for farmers by distributing organic fertilizer, improved maize seeds and supporting them with weeding
- Contacting and establishing strategic partnership agreements (SPA) with potential buyers and partners such as the Savanna Marketing Company (SMC) and Premium Food.
- Provision of a warehouse to assist farmers gets a place to store their maize produce.
- Sensitization on gender roles and the involvement of women in households food security planning and decision making
- Monitoring and evaluation of the project implementation in the selected communities
- Sensitization and mobilization of the youths in the selected region with key focus on the dangers of irregular migration, opportunities in agricultural activity in the region as well as credit facility for youths
- Awareness raising on the project in the Ghanaian migrant community in the Netherlands

5.0 Challenges

Some of the challenges linked to project implementation are listed below.

First, the major challenger faced has been limited access to financial capital. Not many Ghanaian migrants in the Netherlands are willing to invest their remittances in the project. With growing number of farmers and more demand for micro credit services inadequate finance to implement the project become a major challenge. The foundation is dealing with this challenge by making project sustainable. Thus

the micro credit services which are given to farmers is later paid back to the organization so it can later be reinvested in them during planting seasons. The foundation continues to seek funding partners and investors who are willing to invest in project implementation.

Second challenge is inadequate agricultural officers involved in project implementation. As the number of farmers increases, then is the demand for additional agric officers to work on the project. We need more agricultural officers to provide regular supervision and continued advice on best farming practices to farmers. Currently, Wenchi District office does not have enough Agric officers. To solve this problem, the foundation has collaborated with Suyani Polytechnic to provide us with Agric students who can learn from Agric officers and apply some of the theoretical knowledge from school on the project for the benefit of the farmers. By doing this, some of these students can also gain experience and work on the project.

Third, farmers limited access to land: Some of the farmers have also explained that they do not own the land. The farmers mentioned that land owners charge them high interest rate before allowing them to work on their plots. To solve this problem, AfroEuro need to lobby on behalf of these farmers to make it easier to get access to the farmland. Also AfroEuro has to encourage the farmers to form associations so they can improve their negotiation skills and have one voice to negotiate with land lands on their behalf.

6.0 Conclusion

From this report we have learnt about the Food security report being implemented by AfroEuro Foundation and other development partners. The project is being implemented in Ghana and in the Netherlands. The core objective for project implementation is to achieve food security. The project aims to encourage Ghanaian migrant living in the Netherlands to use their remittances to invest in project implementation. Currently the foundation has been able to mobilize about 270 farmers from over 5 different villages within Wenchi District in Ghana. The foundation has also provided information on organic farming to farmers. There has been awareness raising and campaign on the project both in Ghana and in the

Netherlands. Farmers registered under the project have also received micro credit services in the package of fertilizer and improved maize seeds. The foundation also assists farmers in other minor activities such as planting, plowing and weeding farmlands. The project seeks to involve the youth and young graduates so the AfroEuro Ghana branch has been lunched to get youth to be more involved in play active part in project implementation.

Furthermore, other activities being undertaken in the Netherlands includes entrepreneurship development promotion among Ghanaian migrant community in the Netherlands. There has also been a research conducted to investigate the possibility of entering into vegetable greenhouse production in Ghana by the Ghanaian migrants upon return to home country.

Moreover, migrants are being encouraged to save and put some money aside so they can use for investment purposes. The AF Susu and Savings and Loan scheme has been introduced to motivate more migrants to form a social support network system which can encourage migrants to frequently save for business purposes.

Reflection on outcome of the project indicates positive responses and results. There has been increased women economic empowerment access to land and credit in Buoko. Farmers have now been formed into a social support network system. Farmers are being assisted in marketing of their food produce. A value chain system has been created and farmers, producers, markets, and buyers are being connected to support farmers gain more income on their food produce.

The AfroEuro food security project has been very successful although there are challenges in project implementation. The challenges faced in project implementation include limited access to funding capital; lack of adequate field agricultural farmers and limited access to land for farmers.

On the problem of insufficient funding capital for project implementation, there has been campaign on the food security project within Netherlands and Ghana to promote investors and migrants invest in the project.

Also with lack of adequate field agricultural officers in Wenchi, AfroEuro foundation is partnering with Suyani polytechnic to engage the services of students

in the agricultural field so they can learn on the project and add their knowledge to project implementation to help farmers.

In addition, farmers have complained that they have limited access to land. The foundation plans to support the negotiation process between farmers and land owners. The foundation also encourages the local chief to intervene whenever necessary to enable farmers get easy access to farmland to boost food production. Farmers have also been encouraged to join the farmer's social network to give them a representation and a voice to facilitate negotiations.

7.0 Recommendations

From this report we can conclude that the food security project is laudable project which needs to be continued. There is need to raise awareness on the project to encourage more farmers join the social network system which is being formed.

The project should continue educating farmers about using very limited chemicals for farming and also about using the new improved maize seeds during planting seasons. Farmers should be encouraged to sow in lines and cultivate other good farming practices to maximize food production.

In the near future the foundation can discuss with community chiefs and lobby on behalf of farmers so enhance farmers' access for land for farming.

Migrants need to be encouraged to continue practicing a saving culture and invest their remittances in the food security project as investment purposes.