

**National Secretariat, Farmers Organisations Network in Ghana**  
**YEAR-END TECHNICAL REPORT**

2023

National Secretariat, Farmers Organisations Network in Ghana  
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## Consolidation of Report

The network's institutional report is produced from all activity production in all the three zones and across the regions of Ghana. Actions at the zonal and member level are monitored by technical staff of the Network National Secretariat and the Zonal Coordinators at the regional and district levels. The network's monitoring and evaluation systems have made it possible to consolidate this report.

<b>Details</b>	<b>SZ</b>	<b>MZ</b>	<b>NZ</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of Groups	80	98	307	<b>485</b>
Number of Members	2199	242	3614	<b>6055</b>
Number of Groups that had submitted membership information	65	8	141	<b>214</b>
<b>Commodity Groupings</b>				
Groups Involved in Farming	23	62		<b>85</b>
Groups Involved in Farming/Processing	1			<b>1</b>
Groups Involved in Fish Processing/Mongering	11	7		<b>18</b>
Groups Involved in Vegetable Farming	2	1		<b>3</b>
Groups Involved in Livestock			3	<b>3</b>
Groups Involved in Rice (Processors = 17)	10	3	152	<b>165</b>
Groups Involved in Maize			46	<b>46</b>
Groups Involved in Mango		1		<b>1</b>
Groups Involved in Rice and Maize		5		<b>5</b>
Groups Involved in Shea			1	<b>1</b>
Groups Involved in Soybean			1	<b>1</b>

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## **1 : Context**

The Farmers Organisation Network in Ghana (FONG) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) made up of over 400 groups (farmer and fisher based organisations) with over 350,000 individual members. Members are family farmers, smallholder farmers, fishers and pastoralists. It has national coverage.

The VISION of the network is “Farming becomes profitable and attractive business venture for small scale operators” and the MISSION also is “to embark on policy advocacy and capacity building for its members in order to contribute to agriculture development, economic growth and sustainable use of natural resources”

In the 2022/23 fiscal year, FONG has received technical and funding support to undertake some activities in partnership and collaboration from different distinguished partners and stakeholders including ROPPA, PAFO, FAO, IFAD, GIZ-Agribiz, University for Development Studies (UDS), CLOSA, USAID/POLICY LINK, MoFA etc. However, majority of the support has come from ROPPA and GIZ-Agribiz.

FONG National Secretariat in Accra with three technical staff was able to give substantial technical and coordinating support to these activities including some member owned activities in some zones among the three operational clusters (zones) of FONG. Currently, FONG still keep to four core interventions areas:

- Facilitating/supporting capacity building and the provision of institutional support to members
- Policy engagement/influencing
- Provision of agricultural economic support/advisory services
- Communication and knowledge management

Members engage in the cultivation, processing and marketing of value added farm produce, grains, fruits, vegetables, tubers, rice, poultry, fish and livestock.

Some of the success of FONG in 2023 include the following:

- More FONG members are adopting new technologies and innovations in production due to trainings and education programmes offered by FONG and its partners
- Linking some of our members to Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) for government supported programmes such as SEPEEP
- Sensitising Pastoral and crop farmers on the need to coexist without conflicts so as to increase productivity and better nutrition in their communities
- The celebration of the International Rural Women’s Day in partnership with FAO, GIZ and ROPPA, members of FONG Women’s Collage have expanded their enterprises through product exhibitions and as a platform for capacity building and networking

## **2 : Background of the implementation of activities**

This report is a year end narrative of all activities implemented in 2023. The report contains Annual Work Plans of both FONG and ROPPA and other government activities relevant to the work of FONG AWP for which FONG was part or fully engaged. This report also acknowledges the achievements made and the challenges hindering further progress and achievement going forward.

Ghana, like many developing countries, faces challenges in ensuring sustainable food security. The country has to grapple with low agricultural productivity, limited market access, and a changing climate. As a result, it is critical to identify and deliver smart solutions that can enhance the food system's resilience and ensure sustainable food security. In 2023 and by the end of the second

quarter, the agriculture sector in Ghana, expanded by Quarter-on-quarter seasonally adjusted growth rates of 1.3% including fishing, livestock, crops (2.8% 1.4% 1.3%). The GDP share of Industry and Agriculture were 32 percent and 21 percent respectively. Year-on-year growth rates in 2nd quarter of 2023 Agriculture was 6.0% (Fishing 12.2% Livestock 6.9% Crops and cocoa 6.3%) (GSS, September, 2023).

In the year also, The President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, on Monday, 28th August 2023, launched Phase Two of Government's flagship programme on agriculture, "Planting for Food and Jobs", at the University for Development Studies, in Tamale. Targeted at building on the successes of the initial programme, the second phase of the programme is a five-year master plan for the transformation of agriculture in Ghana with focus on modernisation through the development of a selected commodity value chains and active private sector participation.

During the launch of the PFJ-2, The President stated that the second phase, by design, will take a holistic view and will place greater emphasis on value chain approaches by focusing on strengthening linkages between actors along eleven selected agricultural commodity value chains broadly categorised into grains, roots and tuber, vegetables and poultry.

By the close of the year, Ghana National Farmers' Day. The Theme for the Farmers' Day Celebration, was "Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience". It was a 5-Day Agricultural Fair and a Grand Durbar. The essence was to allow farmers to network with industry players and learn and adopt new technologies, machinery, and research innovations in agriculture. The fair also offered a business platform for various stakeholders to link up and form partnerships that will ensure the overall benefit of their farm enterprises. A total of fifteen award categories were honored on the Award Night in Tarkwa.

FONG's believes that when Farmer-based Organisations in Ghana are well supported and their potential is well maximised by ensuring adequate financing, tooling, market access, reliable policy and infrastructure environment, Ghana targets on food security and resilience will be achieved on time. The role of POs in ensuring food, nutrition security and sustainable rural development in Africa is becoming more crucial as the world faces increasing climate change challenges. According to Antonaci et al, 80% of the food produced in sub-Saharan Africa is produced by smallholder farmers and these farmers are also the largest employers for the local labour force in these countries and for that matter Ghana. After independence, various governments of Ghana viewed cooperatives as key instruments for agricultural and rural development, although cooperative development during this period underwent frequent and major changes in direction (Dadson 1988). During the late 1980s, state-controlled cooperatives started to dissolve perhaps due to growing global pressure for structural reforms towards market liberalization. Subsequent governments in Ghana therefore adopted a liberal approach to the development of cooperatives, allowing other types of rural and farmers' self-help organizations for income-generating activities to be formed, all of which are commonly referred to as farmer-based organizations (FBOs) or Producer Organisations (POs). In the past two decades, Ghana has witnessed many governmental and nongovernmental projects (see Salifu et al. 2010) seeking to promote FBO development. In particular, between 2000 and 2007, the World Bank alone invested more than US\$9 million for the development of FBOs as part of AgSSIP (AgSSIP 2007). In 2007, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) also approved a five-year US\$547 million anti-poverty compact with the Government of Ghana and a significant proportion of this amount has been used in the development FBOs. Salifu et al (2010) estimated the number of FBOs in Ghana to be around 10,000 and noted that the rapid rise of FBOs is partly due to NGOs, government agencies, and private investors who increasingly see rural collective action as one important means to achieve agri-business development objectives.

FONG 2023 Activity Work Plan implementation went this far because of the cooperation enjoyed from Partners, Stakeholders, Members, National Executives Committee and Technical Staff. Our donor partners such as ROPPA, GIZ, IFAD, FAO Government Agencies etc. are all part of the success made in the year.

### 3: Stock on the achievements of the year 2023.

In the 2021/2023 fiscal year, FONG planned to execute 21 main activities nationwide. However, FONG also collaborated in implementing about 11 dedicated AWP of ROPPA in Ghana. There were other activities FONG participated in over the year most of which were organised by various partners and stakeholder. The planned activities were designed to cover the northern, middle and southern zones of Ghana within the currently 16 administrative and political regions of Ghana. FONG three zones administrative system is operated with the support of volunteer member organisations as host of the zonal secretariats. The southern zone secretariat is hosted by Development Action Association located in Accra, the middle zone secretariat is hosted by ECARSARD in Techima and the northern zonal secretariat also hosted by Grameen Ghana based in Tamale. The table below is an overview of the activities implemented this year.

Table 1:

Activity	Planned Outputs/immediate outcomes	Results achieved	Variance	Deliverables/products	Program/project type
Action 2.3: Strengthening the influence of POs for the adoption and implementation of LOASPH/TASK 17: Participate in government meetings and programmes affecting farmers	FONG members participated in the review process of the National Climate Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan lead by The Ministry of Food and Agriculture in collaboration with the Feed the Future Ghana Policy LINK Activity	Contributed to Two (2) government agricultural policy and programme review process	0	FONG members contribution to agriculture policy in Ghana	OPenACP
Action 3.3: Organize body sessions/TASK3: Organise NEC Meeting	Four (4) in-person and several online NEC meetings held	Contributed to the management of FONG and member welfare	0	Overside advisory services to FONG activity implementation and management	OPenACP
Action 3.5 Institutional strengthening/TASK2: Pay	Four (4) months staff salaries fully paid	Supported 3 staff salary payment	8 months outstanding	Technical Staff ensure effective and timely activity	OPenACP

Salaries	<p>Acquired digital bookkeeping solution and skill for FONG Finance Officer</p> <p>FONG Web site further developed and managed</p> <p>FONG registered and operated Google Workspace</p>	<p>Provided with a bookkeeping solution</p> <p>Supported FONG WEB site updates</p>		<p>implementation</p> <p>FONG is more visible and active online</p>	
Action 1.8 Supporting the participation of women and young people in commercial events in the region/ <b>TASK 9: Support funds mobilisation to mark 2023 World Rural Women's Day</b>	FONG Supported member organizations to mobilise funds and sponsorship for 2023 world rural women's day celebration	Contributed to 2023 IRWD celebrated by some members	0	Strengthened FONG Women's College and Rural Women Farmer activities	OPenACP
Action 1.1 Setting up and strengthening CNIEPs/ <b>TASK 1: Institutional Support-Office maintenance, Audit, Stationery, others</b>	Salaries and allowances partly paid to staff	Supported salaries and allowances part payments	8 months outstanding	Partly motivated Technical Staff	OPenACP
Action 1.6. Development and strengthening of training facilities and youth incubation centers in 7 national platforms	FONG Supported 26 farmers from five regions to participate in a training workshop on climate information services in	Collaborated with Policy Link and trained 26 farmers on climate informati	0	CIS Education for Members	OPenACP



	Ghana	on services in Ghana			
TASK 6: Organise meeting with stateholders to share Strategic Plan	Shared 7 copies of strategic plan with some partners and members	Renewed collaboration with partners	0	Support planning and sustainable revenue mobilisation	FONG
TASK 8: Collect data to document success stories and case studies	One annual market membership satisfaction survey conducted	Members cooperated with FONG in trying to understand issues and serve better	0	Plan tailored services and products for members	FONG/GIZ
TASK 11: Policy Advocacy-Press Release	Provide expert advice and interviews sought for by media houses to address national agricultural issues	Granted one (1) interview with GTV on a live news cast	0	Participatory agriculture policy engagement	FONG
Organization high-level mission to advocate for the consideration of pastoralism and nutrition in DDPs  Advocacy Workshop to Consider Pastoralism in DDPs  Meet pastoral associations to broaden their social base and strengthen their accountability towards their members	Advocated for the consideration of pastoralism in District Assembly Development Plans	Three (3) sessions of MOPSS-2 supporting activities	0	Promoting peaceful coexistence between pastorals and crop farmers and other community members	MOPSS

DERPIn project launch and country-level inception workshop	Farmers mobilised in DERPIn project activities in Ghana	Collaborated with UDS in launching and holding DERPIn project in Ghana	0	Mobilising farmer participation in DERPIn project in Ghana	PAFO/Akademi ya2063
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#### 4 : Activity Details

##### ROPPA Supported Activities

###### Agroecology

Workshop to strengthen national agroecology stakeholder consultation; The workshop was attended by 25 participants (19 males & 6 females) drawn from government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), CSO/FBOs, Private Sector (Financial Institutions), and Development Partners. The main aim of the workshop was to contribute to the promotion of Agroecology through the National Actors' Coalition and capacity reinforcement. It envisioned helping the coalition to be more operational, more efficient and more proactive in coordinating and addressing Agroecology issues in Ghana.



Specifically, the workshop sought to achieve the following objectives:

- Make a prospective assessment of the functioning and the actions of the National Consultative Framework on Agroecology in Ghana (NCFA-GH)
- Define some orientations to reinforce the efficiency of the NCFA-GH (Relevant topics of advocacy, membership development, main actions, partnership development, funding etc)
- Inform actors on the progress of the IGREENFIN project

To help facilitate the NCFA-GH establishment, the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO) in partnership with ROPPA, FONG and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) organized a two-day stakeholders workshop to review the current state of actions on the NCFA-GH and develop realistic roadmap and commitments for operationalisation of the coalition. The workshop was held on the 14th and 15th December 2023 at the Ange Hill Hotel in Accra, Ghana. The workshop was facilitated by FONG using participatory approach involving series of presentations, panel discussions, group work, and plenary discussions. At end of the workshop, the following were achieved;

- Reviewed NCFA-GH charter produced
- Reviewed NCFA-GH action plan produced
- Host of NCFA-GH secretariat identified

- National Steering Committee for NCFA-GH constituted
- Workshop report produced and shared with members

Currently, Ghana has a more functional NCFA in place to ensure effective stakeholder participation and coordination of agroecology activities

### MOPSS Project



Actions taken under this project included;

- ✓ Organization high-level mission to advocate for the consideration of pastoralism and nutrition in DAs
- ✓ Advocacy Workshop to Consider Pastoralism in DAs
- ✓ Meet pastoral associations to broaden their social base and strengthen their accountability towards their members

In the specific context of the MOPSS project in Ghana, Ghana is one of the coastal countries (Benin, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Togo) of the central cross-border transhumance corridor of West Africa, pastoralism is the subject of specific treatment. National policies are paying increasing attention to these two themes which, from the point of view of population resilience, have numerous interactions.

Pastoralism constituted one of the essential components of the rural economies of the coastal states of the central corridor, even if its contribution to the creation of national wealth remains very modest. Indeed, representing approximately between 14 and 17% of the agricultural GDP of Benin and Togo, but much less for the two largest economies in the area (Ghana and Ivory Coast), it only provides between 1.3% at 6.73% of the national GDP of the four States present (Benin, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Togo). However, it constitutes an important source of animal protein (between 40 to 60%), thus contributing to the maintenance or even improvement of the nutritional status of populations through the supply of milk and red meat.

Specifically, the Ghanaian landscape offered pastures and natural open water bodies. About 26,000 km<sup>2</sup>, or 11% of the total land area, is considered unimproved pastureland, providing natural resources for agriculture and livestock. Before the workshop, and as part of the implementation of subsequent activities of the project, FONG team met with project communities to take into account pastoralism and nutrition in municipal development plans. This high-level mission took place in municipalities such as; Kasena Nankana, Builsa North and south Districts, Bolgatanga Municipality, Bongo District, West Manprusi District, in order to consult with the communities and actors in livestock production on the issues of advocacy and the challenges to be taken up in the advocacy workshop. The "Advocacy Workshop for the Consideration of Pastoralism in District Assembly Development Plans &

Multistakeholder Dialogue on the Peaceful Management of Natural Resources Including Pastoral Land" convened experts, and community representatives at the Fonky Grand Hotel, Bolgatanga, setting the stage for an illuminating discourse on the intricate dynamics between pastoralist livelihoods and settled agricultural communities. Over two enlightening days, this gathering became a crucible for dissecting, deliberating, and charting actionable pathways towards conflict resolution, resource management, and sustainable coexistence. The workshop was part of the MOPSS Project, in promoting dialogue that will uncover the real issues underlying conflicts.

In other to strengthen association involved in transhumans and livestock production to be more accountable towards their members and for that matter impact policies and community participation, as many as 4 community based livestock production associations were met in Kasena Nankana, Bolgatanga, Balsa North and the Balsa south Districts. Over 60 Pastoral Association Members and their leaders participated in these meetins.



#### *Strengthened the capacity of Pastoral Associations in Paga in the Kasena Nankana Diatrict*

Pastoral Associations were sensitised and educated on the MOPSS project and its intention to facilitate consultations between Pastoral stakeholders in project districts and communities. Association leaders and members encouraged to disseminate project informations to members including issues of disputes and structures of conflict resolution among members and host communities.

Some results were made in the implementation of the MOPSS activities;

- ✓ Drafted roadmap to consider pastoralism in DAs
- ✓ Sensetised actors on peaceful co-existance between livestock farmers and crop farmers

## DERPIn Project



AKADEMIYA2063 and PAFO in partnership is implementing the “Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations (DERPIn) project” over a three-year period in five African countries – Benin, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, and Senegal. FONG is representing PAFO in Ghana to implement the project. Our duty in the project is to mobilised farmers and farms for data cillection.

The project seeks to focus attention on African countries capacity to anticipate and respond to shocks resulting in large-scale disruptions and irreversible damage to food systems, livelihoods and putting at jeopardy our infant farming systems and developing agribusiness gains in Africa.

So the solution preferred in this project is a digitally-enabled, customizable tools, data, and analytical products to cater for the needs of a broad range of stakeholders including government, the private sector, and most crucially food systems actors including smallholder farmers. In February 22, 2023 FONG was invited by AKADEMIYA2063 and the Pan-African Farmers’ Organization (PAFO) in Kigali, Rwanda for an inception meeting for this project. This year, an inception meeting for the same project was done at Ghana country level. In collaborated with UDS, the project was also launch in Accra with the participation of farmers, MoFA and many other stakeholders in the agriculture sector in Ghana, Rwanda and Senegal.

As part of the activities under DERPIn, AKADEMIYA2063 hosted a Research Symposium on November 30, 2023, in partnership with the Pan-African Farmers’ Organization (PAFO). The Research Symposium convened the DERPIn project partners who presented the main activities completed during the project’s first year and to shared key findings and lessons learned. DERPIn partners also presented data analysis carried out to date, platforms and tools for decision-making, and progress in implementing DERPIn activities in project countries. The symposium sought to fulfill the following other objectives;

- a) explore the possibility of expanding the scope and reach of the DERPIn project,
- b) discuss the option of standing innovation partnerships,
- c) identify areas for further research and activities, and
- d) provide feedback on possible products and services for key stakeholders including farmers and policymakers as outcomes of the project.

### Support for the organization of NEC Meeting

The National Executive Committee meeting (NEC) was held on the 14thDecember 2023 at the Ange Hill Hotel in Accra. It was attended by 25 participants (19 males & 6 females) drawn from . In 2022, FONG



National Executive Committee met on August 9, 2022 in M&J Hospitality Guest House, Tamale. What was common in this meetings as well as over 5 other online what's app meetings are as follows:

- FONG strategic plans and revenue mobilisation
- Improving membership welfare and stakeholder engagement
- ROPPA and other FONG partner relations

### Institutional strengthening

The Network is still dependant on members dues payment. Members are obligated to pay dues to the Network once a year. A timely dues collection drive in 2022 saw us increases revenue from members dues by 5.24%. In 2023, FONG is yet to collect any dues.

FONG efforts to widen revenue generation ends up in the shelves because of initial coat implications of such ventures. This year, FONG National Secretariat made efforts to aggregate sorghum from members in the middle zone of Ghana so as to secure a purchase contract with Guinea Ghana Company. But the initial cost of mobilising the producers and meeting partners could not be met.

Currently 90% of FONG administrative overheads come from the financial support of ROPPA. FONG has been the National Level Platform for ROPPA for many years. Over the last two (2) years administrative funds from ROPPA is drying up leading to de-motivation and attrition of Technical Personnel in FONG. Under the year of review, the only 3 staff FONG has at the National Secretariat did not receive salaries for six months. The hope is that, ROPPA will eventually send funds for some salaries and office operational cost.

FONG is open to projects of successful case-studies coaching on business service and product for income generation suitable for the structure of our Network in the future.

### WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF FAMILY FARMING IN GHANA: The Integrated Family Farming Network of Ghana (IFFNG)

In the bid to reactivate the committee to play its critical role in the UNDF, ROPPA in collaboration with IFAD has provided resources to FONG to facilitate this workshop. The workshop was successfully carried out on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 at Ange Hill Hotel in Accra, Ghana. It was attended by 28 stakeholders and resulted in reconstitution of the IFFNG and development of a draft National Action Plan and roadmap. The workshop was very participatory and as members gained new insights into the concept of Family Farming, UNDF and IFFNG.

#### **Aim and Objectives of the Workshop**

The main objective of the workshop was to promote conversations and common commitment to the United Nations Decade for Family Farming (UNDF) among key actors involved in the promotion of family farming in Ghana.

Specifically, the workshop sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. Inform participants about the UN Decade of Family Farming (global action plans, declaration of the decade, status of its implementation in the world, etc.)
2. Inform participants about the actions and initiatives of the NCF-Ghana
3. Develop a unanimous roadmap for the revitalization of the NCF-Ghana
4. Develop a proposed roadmap for the implementation of the UNDF in Ghana based on the construction of a national action plan for the UNDF
5. Re-organize the multi-stakeholder coordination committee for the UNDF in Ghana

At the end of the workshop, the National Action Plan and road maps were presented for validation. The workshop was attended by 28 participants (26 males & 2 females) drawn from government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Research Institutions, Academia (Universities), CSO/FBOs and Private Sector

[Support for participation in trade fairs and events](#)

### **International World Rural Womens Day Held On The 16Th October, 2023**

FONG and member organisations marked 2023 IRWD and celebrated the contribution of women to the efforts of food production in Ghana. Over (700) participant present. The International Rural Women Day is a day dedicated to recognize critical role and contribution of rural women in enhancing agriculture and rural development, improving food security and eradicating poverty. Notably, International Rural Women Day not only honors the remarkable contributions of rural women but also advocates for their fundamental role in agriculture, bolstering food security and recognizing their unwavering effort. According to UN statistics from 2019, agriculture contribute to be the primary source of employment for women in developing countries and rural areas.

The Development Action Association(DAA) and the Women in Agribusiness of Ghana (WIAG), all members of FONG, commemorated this year International Rural Women`s Day. The World Rural Women`s Day 2023 revolved around the theme “Rural women cultivating good foods for all”. This day designated by the United Nations (UN), serves as a global resemblance to the indispensable role

of rural women and serve as a channel through which their challenges and concerns can be presented and addressed to the key stakeholders. It is marked every October 15. Dignitaries' who graced the occasion included representative of the Ministers of State, District Chief Executives , Community Leaders , NGOs, Agribusiness Companies, Farmers etc.



*DAA members at the IRWD occasion*

### GIZ/Agribiz Project

AgriBiz and the partnership with FONG is to promote the MSMEs and particularly women-led member-based business associations and enterprises that face substantial gender-related challenges in the Agribusiness sector in Ghana. The AgriBiz programme is set to deliver its mandate from April 2021 to March 2024. However, FONG signed onto this partnership in April 2022 and activity implementation commencing in June 2022.

In this project, Agribiz wants to see an enhanced FONG, effectively representing the interest of their members. The project sort to implement various support systems in FONG to improve on service delivery to members in the area of market information and access, capacitating members to access finance for business expansion, organizational development and digital marketing trainings, among others.

The achievements of the cooperation between FONG and the AgriBiz project is aim at member-based organisations (MBBOs) in the Agribusiness sector to better serve the interest of their members and improve their revenue streams and collection of member fees and dues to efficiently and sustainably manage the affairs of the associations and network. The specific objectives include;

- To increase revenue collection/mobilisation by 15% at the end of the cooperation by March 2024
- To conduct at least annual surveys among members and other MSMEs in order to collect relevant market information and recommendations to improve the business climate.

The first phase of the AgriBiz project will end in March, 2024. However, an activity concept is proposed by FONG to prepare for a follow-up phase in April 2024 to September 2025. In this next phase, AgriBiz will support FONG in the following areas:

- Service development for membership and revenue/service fee generation



- Regular membership surveys (annually)
- Digitization drive of the organization

At the end of the 2-year partnership with Agribiz, the following achievements can be counted

1) *Membership Satisfaction and Market Survey;*

Collected data from FONG members for a market and membership satisfaction survey. This was done with the support of GIZ-Agribiz project. Analysis of the survey data has unearthed the following paramount concerns/issues under the report heading “What are FONG Members most worried about?” Ratings of challenges by FONG respondents presented the following top challenges;

- Poor access to inputs
- Poor access to markets and marketing services

2) *FONG and members increased efforts in revenue mobilisation (5.24% achieved so far*

3) *Enhance skills by FONG National Secretariat staff on using online survey tools*

4) FONG received office equipment supplies ie printer, smart-phone, laptop etc

### USAID/Policy LINK Supported Activities

#### Agricultural policy Influence

Participated in government & stakeholder meetings and programmes affecting farmers; FONG mobilised members to participate in workshops on the Review of Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan at City Escape Hotel, Accra and also a workshop on Improving Climate Information Service Provision in Ghana at Koforidua in the Eastern Region

Policy LINK facilitated and funded the workshops involving state and non-state actors in the production, delivery and use of climate information services (CIS) in Ghana. The workshop aimed to identify challenges and co-develop innovative solutions to address them for enhance service delivery. The workshop also discussed the implementation of the National Framework for Climate Services and the actions to be taken to improve CIS delivery.

FONG role was the mobilisation of farmer and producer groups to participate and bring their perspectives to bear on the workshops. FONG members representing 5 regions of Ghana participated in the workshops.

Some challenges faced by different stakeholders in the CIS sector and recommended solutions were preferred;

Area of discussion	Challenge(s) faced	Recommended Solution
<b>Users</b>		
Level of engagement in design of CIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low level of engagement with users, especially smallholder farmers</li> <li>• The scope of engagement is limited</li> <li>• Inadequate contribution by farmers to the format (e.g., language)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage more representatives of farmer groups.</li> <li>• More decentralized engagement with the users</li> <li>• Engagement with District/Decentralized Dept. of Agric and NCCE</li> <li>• Make provision for feedback on the design of CIS products</li> <li>• More women should be included in the engagement of the design</li> </ul>
Accessibility of the service (ease of access)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIS not accessible due to network connectivity, illiteracy and inadequate sensitization, especially</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitization on the benefits of CIS to users</li> <li>• Advocacy for wider network coverage</li> <li>• More intermediary (e.g., extension</li> </ul>

	<p>hard-to-reach communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited intermediary service providers (media and AEAs – extension officers)</li> </ul>	<p>officers) service providers, especially women</p>
<p>User-friendliness of the service you receive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Format of the service (text, audio/radio, pre-recorded)</li> <li>Frequency and timeliness</li> <li>Language barriers</li> <li>Ease of understanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Texts and pre-recorded messages are in English and difficult to be understood by most illiterate farmers</li> <li>The pace/speed of the pre-recorded voice makes it difficult to grasp</li> <li>Less frequent weather reports and updates by CIS intermediate users</li> <li>No ease of understanding of the terminologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-recorded audios should be in local languages</li> <li>CIS intermediate users should ensure clarity in presenting weather reports, and in the languages that farmers best understand</li> <li>There should be dedicated times during the day for CIS provision/delivery</li> <li>CIS provision should be frequent. Three-time daily CIS information release will be appropriate</li> <li>Intermediary users should be trained on the terminologies</li> </ul>
<p>Affordability of the service (cost)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service is expensive, especially premium service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USAID and other funders should subsidize service for farmers</li> <li>Percentage of gov't agric subsidy should go to CIS funding</li> </ul>
<p>Relevance of information received (tailored or not)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CIS is less relevant to smallholder farmers because it is not location-specific</li> <li>Available applications/packages are not local and makes it difficult to use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CIS should be localized</li> <li>Local IT experts should create CIS applications</li> </ul>
<p>Cultural/traditional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affects uptake of science-based CIS because farmers use signs like movement of birds to determine weather changes</li> <li>Accuracy of the information (traditional)</li> <li>Women are reluctant to access CIS from male intermediate users (Men AEAs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate farmers to adapt more of new ways of CIS information services</li> <li>CIS providers should ensure accuracy of their information</li> <li>Pre-recorded CIS messages should be feminine (voice)</li> <li>More women should be involved in CIS intermediary service provision (AEAs)</li> </ul>

To help review the Ghana Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Plan (CSAIP), Participants needed to take stock of the following;

### **Achievements**

- Development of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Plant (under the AAA initiative with support from the World Bank)

- Collaboration with GIZ to implement CSA interventions in Zabzugu and South Tongu districts
  - Capacity building for National and subnational actors on CSA under the Ecowas CSA project.
- CHALLENGES**
- Inadequate funding to implement activities at the national level
  - Weak involvement of NGOs and CSOs in the sensitization and implementation of the Action Plan
  - Coordination of information on CSA action on the ground by state, private sector, local and international NGOs and CSOs, Development Partners, etc

### **Lessons Learned**

- Non-costing of action plan
- Weak emphasis on livestock and fisheries
- No M&E framework or indicators to track and assess performance
- Top down approach of policy document development to local implementation

### **CLOSA**

This project is a Farmer Networks and Associations Peer Support Mission and a 2-year engagement detailed to give some specific technical assistance that the Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation (HSDF) via the Connect and Learn for Sustainable Associations (CLOSA) project is willing to offer to the Farmers Organization Network of Ghana (FONG) to address key gaps identified during a recently conducted interview and financial management assessment. The prioritized support from the CLOSA Project over the two year programmes includes;

1. Development of operational plans from the strategic plan
2. Co-creation of Business Plan/Funding Plan
3. Review of Finance Manual
4. Deployment of Accounting Software
5. Capacity building for the finance function on the finance manual and accounting software

This year, CLOSA invited two FONG technical staff and 16 members to a workshop targeted at improving financial sustainability, commercial viability, and self-reliance of Associations in Ghana.

### **Policy advocacy-press release**

Provide expert advice, interviews and consultations sought for by stakeholders, media houses to address national agricultural issues;

FONG technical staff and many other FONG members participated in government and state agency meetings and in each case FONG advocated for smallholder farmers in Ghana

Granted one (1) interview with GTV on a live news cast on how best farmers could be supported in this era of increasing cost of production for farmers

while contributing to the development of the economy as a whole.

5: Main difficulties and lessons learned

**Salary funding for FONG staff for now and the next 5-year strategic period :** FONG continues to celebrate its five-year strategic plan, which will began in 2023 and will end in 2027. However, the challenge still persist regarding how FONG will raise funds to keep running the National and Zonal Secretariats to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategic plan over the five years. Currently, FONG national secretariat is still not fully staffed, few staff recruited are not paid regularly too. Also, there is no single vehicle for official trips to the field while office space is inadequate.

6: Outlook for 2024

#	Action	Project support the activity	Responsibility	Expected Output	Output Indicator	Expected products/deliverables	Provisional budget Eur
1	<b>ACTION 1: Institutional strengthening</b>	<b>Activity 1:</b> Support Staff salaries, office supplies and maintenance	FONG/ROP PA	12 month, 3-staffed salaries paid to	12months salaries  1 National office maintained	Motivated technical staff working in a supportive office environment	8,000
2	<b>ACTION 2: Policy Advocacy-Press Release</b>	<b>Activity 2:</b> Press releases	FONG/ROP PA	2 Press releases published	2 Press releases	FONG championing farmers concerns in Ghana	1,000
3	<b>ACTION 3: Supporting the participation of members (women and young people) in commercial events in Ghana</b>	<b>Activity 3:</b> Support women and youth attending trade fairs	FONG/ROP PA	Six women and youth supported to attend commercial events	6 Women and youth supported  1 of updates to WEB site	Increase access to markets and other industry players	2,000
4	<b>ACTION 4: Capitalise/research an indigenous knowledge of family farmers in Ghana</b>	<b>Activity 4:</b> Carry out one evidence based research through a case studies	FONG/ROP PA	One indigenous knowledge of family farmers (FFs) in Ghana documented	1 report published	Published case studies on FFs	3,000

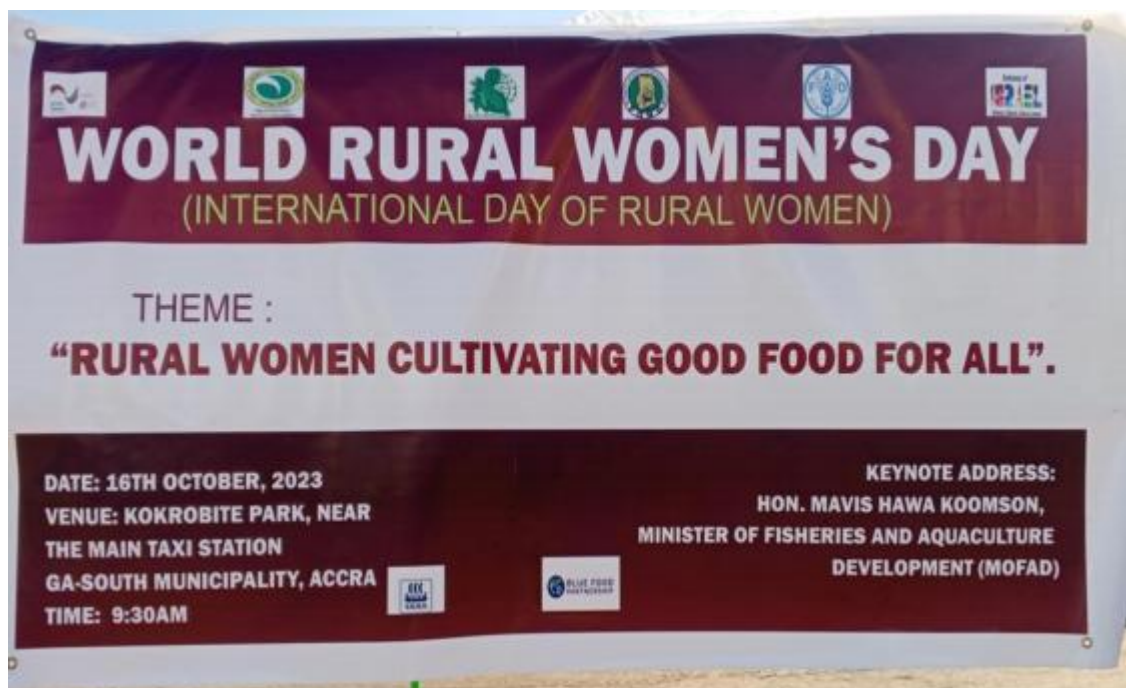
5	<b>ACTION 5: Capacity building for Producer Organisations and groups</b>	<b>Activity 5:</b> Train 90 women owned businesses on how to manage small business cash flows	FONG/ROP PA	Six Producer Groups received capacity building	6 Producer Groups	Trained Producers Groups in cash flow management	8,000
6	<b>ACTION 6: Mark International Rural Women's Day (IRWD)</b>	<b>Activity 6:</b> Support members to celebrate IRWD	FONG/ROP PA	International Rural Women's Day celebrated	800 Rural Women Farmers participating	Women contribution to sustainable food production in Ghana recognised	2,000
7	<b>ACTION 7: Campaigns on peaceful coexistence between herdsmen/transhumance and small-scale farmers</b>	<b>Activity 7:</b> Organize quarterly community radio campaigns on issues of peaceful coexistence between herdsmen/transhumance and small-scale farmers	FONG/ROP PA	Campaigns on peaceful coexistence between herdsmen/transhumance and small-scale farmers organised	Three (3) exposed districts reached	Peaceful environment for pastoralism in Ghana	10,000
8	<b>ACTION 8: Build capacity of members (Producer Organisations)</b>	<b>Activity 8:</b> Train hundred (100) farmers on ESLA and product packaging	FONG/ROP PA	Membership trained on ESLA and product packaging	# of trained farmers	Increase incomes	5,000
9	<b>Action 9: Support the action plan of IFFNG</b>	Mobilise IFFNG members and FUNDS for UNDF NAP	FONG/IFFNG	Members profiled	# of profiled members	Promote UNDF CAP	500

The 2024 Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the Network is outlined as follows;

## 7: Identified Experiences Shared

### Why this action

Support Member Organisations to Celebrate Annual World Rural Women's Day



### The context for the implementation of this action

The International Rural Women Day is a day dedicated to recognize critical role and contribution of rural women in enhancing agriculture and rural development, improving food security and eradicating poverty. Notably, International Rural Women Day not only honours the remarkable contributions of rural women but also advocates for their fundamental role in agriculture, bolstering food security and recognizing their unwavering effort. According to UN statistics from 2019, agriculture contribute to be the primary source of employment for women in developing countries and rural areas.

Since 2010, FONG has been championing the celebration of IRWD as part of its annual key activities to honour Members in our Women Collage. Over these years, FONG has received support from GIZ-dlv, ROPPA, FAO and other partners to sustain this project. For us in FONG, the IRWD celebrations creates a platform;

- ✓ To encourage Women of Ghana to continue to play their roles including their critical role in agribusiness.
- ✓ To celebrate and honour our hard-working Rural Women in membership communities and the nation at large.
- ✓ To advocate for Rural Women on diverse issues affecting them

### Main steps

- Make the activity part of FONG annual operational plan or work plan
- Encourage members to also plan annually to mark IRWD
- Receive support request from members organisation interested in celebrating IRWD each year

- Preparing concept notes, terms of references (TORs) and support letters for members seeking sponsorships
- Give other technical and financial support to members mobilising resources to mark IRWD

### **What partnership?**

In partnership with;

- Local government and district assemble authorities
- Traditional leaders
- Corporate companies and institutions
- Donor partners
- Community members
- Farmers and farmer groups

### **What results**

1. Improved knowledge of Rural Women on climate change/smart vegetables
2. Improved skills to negotiate low interest rates from banks
3. Improved knowledge on Good Nutrition for families
4. Women had status and capacity improved as they received awards ranging from cloth, pans, cutlasses, organic fertilizer and spraying machines
5. Strengthened FONG Women's College and Rural Women Farmer activities in Ghana

### **What prospects**

- IRWD is a UN activity and will attract all UN organisations and projects
- IRWD concerns women and attract all feminist organisations and support
- IRWD celebration empowers women and promote women and girls inclusion and equity
- IRWD celebration is a strong tool to push government attention and policies towards women and girls in agribusiness

### **8: Challenges**

- Weak finances to coordinate member activities and pay salaries of technical staff
- Insufficient funding for FONG Strategic plan and Annual Work Plans

### **9: Way forward**

- Contribute to the transformation of family farms so that they can sustainably meet the growing food demand
- Strengthen economic services delivery to members and smallholder farmers
- Increase revenue generation and media visibility