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Ghana Outlook

Assisting rural communities to enhance their future through education and self-help programmes



Registered Charity Number
1091636



Sahara Advocates of Change
"Sharing Skills and Ideas to Change Lives!"

COMPLETION REPORT OF DRY SEASON GARDENING PROJECT



NYOLI PAANI, WA WEST DISTRICT, UPPER WEST REGION, GHANA
SEPTEMBER 2020-MARCH APRIL 2021



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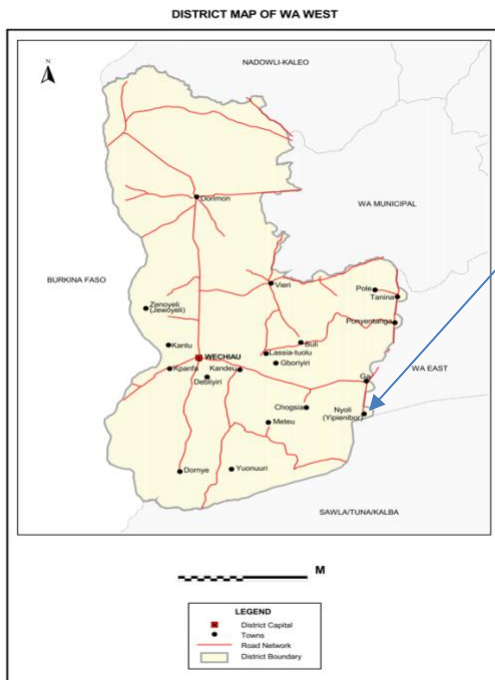
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Introduction:

This is a pilot Dry Season Gardening project of Sahara Advocates of Change (SAC) with funding from Ghana Outlook (GO)-UK in collaboration with the Pavulee Women's Group in Nyoli Paani Community of the Wa West District in the Upper West Region.



The group was chosen as they have been begging for a dry season garden intervention after the government provided a big dug-out for the community. They have known SAC through the women intervention of organization in the neighboring communities of Nyoli Dossah and Nyoli Koraa especially on livelihood enhancement. When GO gave a light to implement the project, the group was chosen and without hesitation came together and SAC conducted a profiling and needs assessment. The group is very large (about 60 membership) as the community is a very big community and since the funding is limited, we can only cater to 20 women in the group (they begged to include 1 woman).

The heart of the community is the Market, the Nyoli Market is one of the biggest in the region and a hub for remote villages as well as market women from the South and Wa to get their items.

The intervention is highly recommended to the group and after a series of trainings, turn-over of materials, 21 women are beneficiary of the dry season gardening project. Out of the 21, 7 are widows and 13 are married. With 152 indirect beneficiaries, the women, decided to plant tomatoes, beans and pumpkin leaves



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as they see these vegetables are in demand in the community during the dry season. The beneficiaries earn between 2.00 to 19.00 GBP a month before the intervention.

Usefulness of the garden

Most women are depending on their husband's family for farming as they cannot own a piece of land. With this project, the beneficiaries for the first time got their own money from the proceeds of the garden they till.

"We got to have our own money now. Even though we save them as a group, but we are not worried anymore where to get money when our husbands will not give us any because we have something saved. We can cater now for our needs and our children's needs. Thank you so much donors," said Agnes Zoyaari, a mother of five.

The women divided the garden beds into 21 beds and each of them has their own bed to attend to. They water twice a day, morning and evening.

Aside from the selling of the produce, a bigger portion of their harvest goes to their table to feed their families. The garden applied no fertilizer and is only using organic fertilizer (goat and chicken manure), our small contribution to keep Mother Earth happy. They have added local vegetables and crops to sow.

"Because of the garden, it saved me from buying vegetables in the market and I have enough to feed my family of seven and the vegetables that I pick from our garden is safe because we know where it came from and how we water them and I am happy with it because I am giving my children nutritious food to eat," Rita Bewel pointed out.

The group added that they have realized the value of garden because they have been seeing more green vegetables during the season compared to the previous years. They are grateful for the nutritional value it gives to them and their family as well as the economic power it provides.

Aside from personal consumption, the group's proceeds reach to 400.00 cedis (51.00 GBP) for the period and more are still to come as they continue to sow and sell their produce until the first rains will come (around May 2021).

They are yet to plan on what to do with their proceeds since they want to wait until the last vegetable is sold before they can then plan on what to do with their savings. It is safely handed over to their Treasurer and kept in the Susu box.

Way Forward

They beg for a pumping machine on the next season so they can easily water the vegetables. Currently, the water of the dug-out has receded so much that it takes them so many hours to fetch the water in their cans and the big basin.



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They will leave the garden during the rainy season as it is very muddy by then and continue by October 2021.

They have also appealed if they can be provided by farming inputs of groundnut and maize as to help them in the rainy season period.

The project has achieved its objective by giving:

- 1.) Alternative livelihoods of 21 women;
- 2.) Increased economic power of 21 women;
- 3.) Increase household food and nutrition security especially during the lean months of the 21 women's households.

Challenges

The group main challenge is finding the good seeds to buy, though SAC provided some seeds to start with but they wanted more and they struggle to get them and also, they did not anticipate the fast sales of the vegetables. SAC advised them to saved some money and we will help them get quality seeds in Accra when we go down.

Aside from the seeds, the watering makes it difficult now (March) as the dry season is on its peak as water receded and it will take them hours to finish watering the entire garden. If water pump is provided, they will be able water fast and efficiently and the plants will grow bigger.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you so much GO, your supporters will be blessed more by God.

Here are the following activities conducted during the project implementation.

Date (subject to change)	Activity
7 th August	Meeting with SAC team
10 th August	Project entry 1 (introduction, first set of profiling)
16 th August	Project entry 2 (continuation of profiling, selection of beneficiaries, needs assessment, MoU signing and site inspection)
16 th August	Purchase of items
22 nd August	Turn-over of materials, Best practices Training,
28 th August	Land fencing
2 nd and 3 rd September	Land clearing, Making of nursery beds, signage installation
September	Financial literacy and leadership training, Planting of seeds (after 3 weeks, ready for replanting to the main garden bed)
September	Monitoring on a monthly basis for 4 months
	Reporting

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Project entry I (introduction, profiling, site inspection):



Lina and Eric introducing the project to the group



Profiling the women

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Project entry 2 (selection of beneficiaries and needs assessment and MoU Signing):

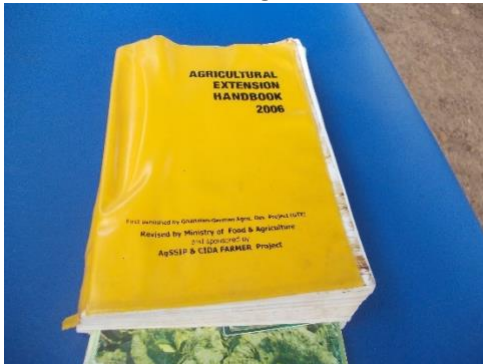


Selecting the beneficiaries and turning over the cutlasses



Signing their part of the MoU

Best Practices Training:



SAC Agric consultant Director Mahama Salifu conducting the best practices training on gardening

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Mr. Salifu demonstrating how to make a bed



Lina encouraging the group to be serious in the intervention

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MoU signing:



Nyoli Chief signing the MoU

Turn-over of materials:



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Land inspection:



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Land fencing:





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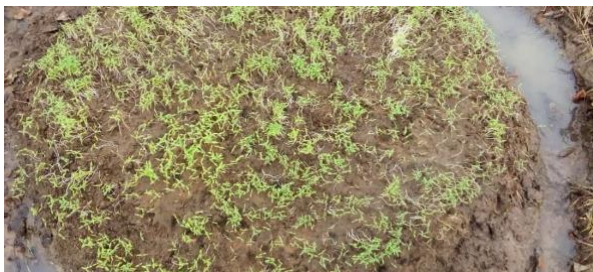
Signage installation:



Manure sending, clearing and nursery beds making:



Monitoring of garden for beds and nursery:



Planting of seeds (after 3 weeks, ready for replanting to the main garden bed):





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Transplanting and sowing:



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Monitoring:



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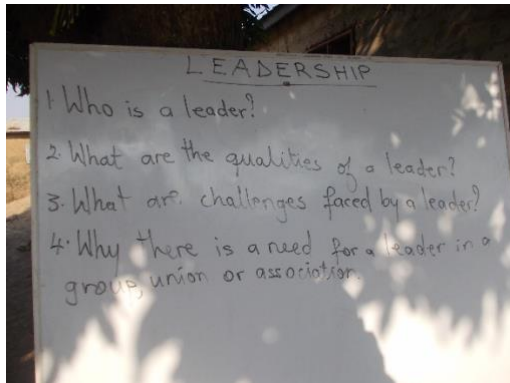
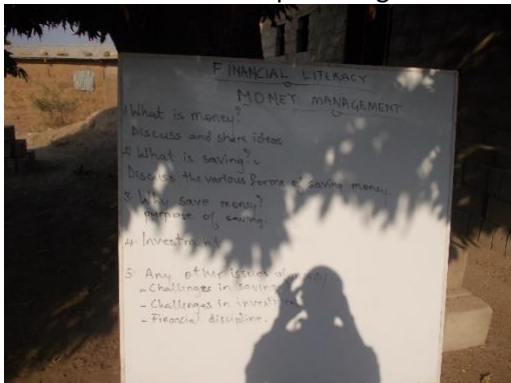


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Financial and leadership training:



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Monitoring from December to March:



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Final meeting and visit with SAC



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Adding various crops to the garden like cassava, maize, Egushi and pepper



THANK YOU SO MUCH G.O!!!!



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FINANCIAL REPORT:

ACTIVITIES	AMOUNT GhC	REMARKS
		Money received on 11 th August is 1,000.00.00 GBP or 7,000.00 GhC (1 GBP=7.00)
Project entry 1 (introduction, profiling, site inspection):	9 th August Fuel- 35.00 TnT- 60.00 Communication- <u>50.00</u> 145.00	
Project entry 2 (selection of beneficiaries and needs assessment):	16 th August Fuel- 60.00 TnT- <u>60.00</u> 120.00	
Purchase of items:	15 th and 16 th August 10 fencing wire @ 160.00 =1,600.00 21 cutlasses@ 30.00= 630.00 1 coil of binding wire= 60.00 21 watering cans @ 25.00= 525.00 Transportation=15.00 Food= 30.00 TnT=20.00 Fuel= <u>40.00</u> 2,920.00	
	17 th August Fuel- 50.00 TnT-40.00 Communication- 20.00 Okro seeds- <u>30.00</u> 140.00	
Signage:	18 th August Plate, pole and welding- 338.00	

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	Beans, Tomato, Pumpkin leaves- 90.00 Fuel- 35.00 TnT- 20.00 Painting fee= <u>100.00</u> 583.00	
Land inspection, turn-over of materials and Best practices Training:	22 nd August Trainer's fee= 350.00 Car rental= 300.00 Fuel= 121.00 TnT= 80.00 Food=50.00 Gratis to Tendanaa= <u>20.00</u> 921.00	
Land clearing and fencing, signage installation:	28 th , 29 th August, 2 nd September Herbicide= 30.00 Fuel= 165.00 TnT= <u>130.00</u> 325.00	
Manure sending, clearing and nursery beds making:	3 rd , 4 th and 9 th September Fuel= 45.00 Communication- 50.00 TnT= <u>60.00</u> 155.00	
Monitoring of garden for beds and nursery:	22 nd October, 8 th Nov., 17 th Nov., TnT= 60.00 Fuel= 50.00 Communication-= <u>50.00</u> 160.00	
Financial and leadership training:	14 th December Fuel= 20.00 Food= 30.00 TnT= <u>50.00</u> 100.00	



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<p>Making of beds:</p>	<p>10th, 12th November Communication= 20.00 TnT= 80.00 Fuel= <u>60.00</u> 160.00</p>	
<p>Monitoring on a monthly basis for 4 months</p>	<p>27th November Fuel- 100.00 TnT- <u>40.00</u> 140.00</p> <p>7th December Fuel- 20.00 Communication-50.00 TnT- <u>20.00</u> 90.00</p> <p>11th December Fuel- 20.00 TnT- <u>20.00</u> 40.00</p> <p>23rd December Fuel- 100.00 TnT- <u>60.00</u> 160.00</p> <p>28th December Fuel- 50.00 TnT- <u>60.00</u> 110.00</p> <p>4th January Fuel- 20.00 Communication-100.00 TnT- <u>20.00</u> 140.00</p> <p>10th January Fuel- 20.00 TnT- <u>20.00</u></p>	



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	40.00	
	31 st January Fuel- 100.00 TnT- <u>60.00</u> 160.00	
	19 th February Fuel- 20.00 TnT- <u>20.00</u> 40.00	
	9 th March Fuel- 20.00 TnT- <u>20.00 e</u> 40.00	
	12 th March Communication- 20.00 Food- 55.00 TnT- <u>80.00</u> 155.00	
	6,844.00	156.00 left to do the remaining monitoring until wrapping-up