



WELCOME

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Regina Bauerochse, GIZ Ghana Country Director

We are pleased to welcome you to the first edition of the 2023 New Bulletin.

The new year has started with new challenges and also already with some exciting success stories from both the projects and the country office.

We would like to share these with you in the newsletter.

The highlight of the beginning of this year was the visit of several German ministers to Ghana. The first was the Minister of Finance Christian Lindner, who stayed only for 24 hours but met several of us, GIZ, at a reception in the Ambassador's residence.

More important for us were the visit of, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Svenja Schulze, and the Federal Minister of Labour, Hubertus Heil, in February. In this newsletter you can learn why they were here and what they saw in Ghana. We are also very pleased to introduce two great female colleagues in this edition. Angela Armah component leader. for more than 2 years in the former PSED and now Financial and Private Sector programme and our new colleague Silke Partner who made her career as a woman in GIZ and since the beginning of the year has been heading the Programme Support to the Transformation of Vocational Training (TVET).

The GovID colleagues report a great success. The programme initiated structured dialogues between district assemblies and agribusinesses to explore and jointly agree upon solutions to enhance local economic development.

Before the "Forest Landscape Restoration through a Sustainable Wood Energy Value Chain" (FLR) project comes to an end, the colleagues can rejoice in what they have achieved. Among other things, the project has succeeded in installing so-called box kilns in partner communities, which make sustainable charcoal production possible. In addition, 700 hectares of natural forest have been rehabilitated in recent years.

As you can see, we again have a wide variety of topics and great results to report on in this News Bulletin.

I wish you a good and exciting read.

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News from Projects



Mrs Schulze and Mr Heil at Kad Manufacturing

German ministers visit Ghana to address labour migration and supply chains.

The "Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz" (Supply Chain Act) - this is a particularly complicated word even for Germans, although we are known to be the masters of long and complicated words. But this word, this act was one of the reasons why the German Development Minister, Svenja Schulze (BMZ), and the German Labour Minister, Hubertus Heil, visited Ghana together from 20 to 22 February.

Germany and the whole of Europe are connected through global supply chains with companies in Ghana and in other countries of the global South. Cocoa and coffee are delivered to Europe from here, clothes are produced in Asia and sent to Germany. This results in a responsibility for companies in countries like Germany to ensure that human rights and environmental standards are respected along the supply chains, for example that no children must work in factories or that no toxic and harmful chemicals are used. To enforce this, the German government has passed this law, the Supply Chain Act, and one is soon to follow at the European level. The Ministers Schulze and Heil now came to Ghana to see how the implementation of the new legal regulations can lead to better working and environmental conditions.

For this purpose, we, as GIZ prepared and organised visits to various stations in the textile supply chain. The delegation visited KAD Manufacturing, one of the leading companies in the textile industry. Mrs Schulze and Mr Heil visited the factory premises along the production steps and exchanged views with the seamstresses about their working conditions. The Invest for Jobs - Special Initiative "Decent Work for a Just Transition" supports KAD and other Ghanaian garment manufacturers to meet international standards and create jobs for local women and youth, thus improving their living conditions.

Textile waste destroys the environment and endangers people's health.

Another aspect of the textile supply chain was less positive: together, the ministers also visited the Kantomanto Market, one of the largest second-hand clothing markets in the world. Around 30,000 people earn their living by selling or processing second-hand textiles, but the quality of the goods is getting worse. About 40 percent of the imported clothing can neither be sold nor used for recycling and is thus textile waste. Which brings us to another stop on the visit: At the Korle-Bu Lagoon and the Old Fadama residential area, where the textile waste ends up and poisons the river, lagoon, beach and sea, and where people have to live in the midst of mountains of waste. Both ministers were shocked, and Mrs Schulze said: *"It is terrible what kind of environmental destruction is being done here, with textiles that come from us in Germany."*

As the issue of integrity also plays an important role in the topic of human rights and decent work, the Alliance for Integrity welcomed the two ministers with their delegation at a reception with 80 representatives from politics, civil society and the business sector. *"Good governance, compliance, anti-corruption and human rights are the same side of the coin,"* Minister Heil said in his opening speech.

Another important topic during the visit of the two ministers was regular labour migration. During their visit, the Ghanaian-German Centre for Labour, Migration and Reintegration, which has already existed since 2017, was renamed the Ghanaian European Centre for Labour, Migration and Development. The centre remains the contact point for people returning from Germany, Europe or other countries who need support for reintegration. In the future the centre is expected to inform interested Ghanaians about the legal ways to migrate to Europe. and thus provide Ghanaians with working opportunities and attract skilled workers to Europe. katja.schuler@giz.de

Strengthening Asset Recovery and Management Regime in Ghana

The recovery of illicitly obtained assets is essential to combatting organized crime. However, even though asset recovery is a key priority within the anti-corruption framework of Ghana, the recovery of asset remains low.

Though the country has enacted several legislations and set up institutions with the mandate to identify, trace, confiscate and forfeit proceeds of crime to the state, the inherent challenges both at the domestic and international levels make the asset recovery process complex and complicated, hence the low recovery rate.

Despite these challenges, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), over the years have been able to seize and confiscate some criminal assets, but a critical problem has been the management of those recovered assets. The effect of this is the deterioration and depreciation of the recovered assets.

The Governance for Inclusive Development, as part of our efforts to strengthen the current systems of asset recovery and management, supported Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) with the development and launch of a policy framework and implementation strategy. The policy, with its accompanying implementation strategy, spells out measures for the Government of Ghana (GoG) and LEAs that improve the existing mechanisms to recover, manage and maintain confiscated assets. The policy has received the approval from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice as well as buy-in from the relevant LEAs.

The effective implementation of this policy will be key to improve the asset recovery and management practices, and to effectively combat criminal activities in Ghana. jens.hamlicher@giz.de

Ghanaian companies and German experts work together to develop PV solar projects.

A Ghanaian fruit drying entrepreneur with high electricity consumption or a cocoa exporter who wants to produce more sustainably - industrial enterprises need a lot of energy for their production processes. But the cost of grid electricity is high and rising. Putting Photovoltaic (PV) systems on their rooftops and using solar energy for generating electricity offers an opportunity to reduce costs thus making their products more competitive.

PV is also often more reliable than conventional power generation and yes, it also protects the climate. But how can companies switch to climate-friendly energy solutions?

The Project Development Programme (PDP) which is part of BMWK's German Energy Solutions Initiative offers support in this area: PDP brings companies from selected partner countries – like Ghana – together with experienced providers of climate-friendly energy solutions from Germany creating a win-win situation for both sides. At this year's annual German Training Week (GTW), local companies learned all the necessary steps for developing an economically viable PV project - assessment, planning, implementation, and financing. 35 participants took part and now strive to develop more projects like the following:

In 2021, a roof-top PV system has been installed at Bomarts Farms in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The system provides the fruits processing company with clean energy during the day, saving up to 115 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year: "Solar energy does not pollute the environment unlike thermal energy sources. With this step we protect the environment, and we reduce our enormous energy costs", said Anthony Botchway, the Chief Executive Office of Bomarts Farms.

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Beyond the Expectation: GovID Inspires Urban Development

The Savannah Regional Coordinating Council (SRCC) has acknowledged the decisive role played by GovID-donated drone in urban development planning in the Savannah Region. This was stated by the Regional Coordinating Director, Mr. Yaw Adu Asamoah, during a review meeting.

In 2020, the Governance for Inclusive Development (GovID) Programme through its interventions to improve the Internally Generated Funds (IGF) had donated a state-of-the-art drone and accessories to the Regional Office of the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA). In addition, 6 officers from LUSPA were trained as drone pilots.

Originally, the drone was to be used to obtain spatial data and aerial images relevant for developing address maps and eventually building fiscal cadastres. While this initiative was primarily to enhance the fiscal infrastructure for revenue mobilisation, especially through business operating permits and property rates, the drone has been utilised beyond the initial expectation.

There has been an effective teamwork between the SRCC, LUSPA and all the seven Municipal and District Assemblies to ensure a systematic physical development process in the Savannah Region. The drone has been deployed by LUSPA to 5 out of the 7 districts in the Savannah Region. It has rightly offered high-quality, accurate, and timely data relevant for making spatial planning and data-driven decisions.

The Savannah Regional Planning Coordinating Unit (SRPCU) has found the services of the drone transformative to their urban development planning endeavours. Charles.abbey@giz.de

Dialogues enhance growth of local agribusiness.



Market tolls form a significant part of revenues of District Assemblies in Ghana. Yet, like in many other districts in Ghana, the market facilities in the Atebubu-Amantin Municipality of the Bono East Region are not in good shape. This situation hinders buying and selling, especially in the rainy season, which on the other hand affects the revenues of the assemblies.

In Atebubu-Amantin, traders believed that the Municipal Assembly was not concerned about their development even though their businesses provide the municipality with huge sums of revenues.

To change this, the GovID programme initiated structured dialogues between district assemblies and agribusinesses to explore and jointly agree upon solutions to enhance local economic development. So far, more than 50 solutions have been developed in 12 facilitated dialogues, out of which 16 have already been implemented with the use of public funds.

In the case of Atebubu, the Maize Aggregators Association and the Municipal Assembly agreed to resolve the challenges collectively: While the Municipal Assembly renovated the market, installed lights and hired a security guard to make the market a safe place for business, the Maize Aggregators Association agreed to cover the cost of paying for the services of the security guard. Now, the market is usable even in the rainy season, wares are stored and traded safely day and night, which in return leads to increased revenues for the Municipal Assembly. A win-win situation for all.

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Ghanaian European Center provides short-term skills training for 100 persons.

The second edition of the Ghanaian European Centre (formal German) for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration's short-term skills training, known as the Sprinter Project, was held in three regions in January and February this year. The project provided 100 beneficiaries, both returned migrants and local populace in the Central, Greater Accra and Volta Regions, with market-demand and emerging TVET skills in three separate 5-day trainings.

In 2022, the Sprinter Project focused on increasing employment opportunities for young people in migration hotspot regions – Bono, Ahafo and Bono East, Ashanti, Greater Accra, and Western – to curb Ghana's 68% unemployment rate as well as immensely contribute towards reducing irregular migration in these areas.

About 76 out of 120 beneficiaries who participated in the first edition, have since become self-employed, making use of skills learned at the trainings create to employment for themselves and others. The positive impact of the programme necessitated its replication in three non-traditional migration regions.

Recent studies have shown an influx of rural youth to urban centres, particularly Kumasi and Accra. The situation is necessitated by the lack of employment opportunities in the regions of origin. The Ghanaian European Centre, through the second iteration of the sprinter project, aimed at providing sources of livelihood to curb internal and irregular migration as well as provide safety net for persons affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Skills taught at the training included ice cream and yoghurt production, bread and pastry making, and makeup artistry. Beneficiaries received start-up equipment and have been assigned coaches to provide them with guidance and direction.

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GIZ, Stakeholders Validate Ghana's National Labour Migration Policy Workplan 2023

The Programme Migration & Diaspora (PMD), together with its state and non-state partners held a workshop in Ada in February to validate Ghana's 2023 labour migration institutional workplan. The workshop also presented a platform for participants to discuss the collective efforts needed to implement the national labour migration policy in its third year, as well as build the capacity of the national labour migration technical working group.



Participants at the event

Through a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, a 17-member cross-sectorial national labour migration policy technical working group was established and has become the main platform for soliciting and harmonising technical inputs towards the successful implementation of the national labour migration policy.

"The development of the labour migration institutional work plan warrants strong collaborations among institutions with labour migration mandates and the technical working group," said Benjamin Woesten, Head of Migration Projects at GIZ Ghana. *"We are glad that participants gained additional knowledge, especially on emerging issues in labour migration and they now have a 2023 blueprint to implement some labour migration activities within the national labour migration policy, which we believe, would subsequently contribute towards the development-oriented shaping of labour migration governance in Ghana."*

GIZ through PMD and on behalf of BMZ has since 2018 been supporting the Government of Ghana in three main migration policy areas – the national migration policy, diaspora engagement policy, and national labour migration policy.

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GIS Staff with Data Collection Officers

Building the Capacities of District Assemblies in Spatial Data Collection to improve Planning.

The use of spatial data is extremely important to plan at the district assembly level, as it provides critical information on the physical and environmental characteristics of an area. With spatial data, district assemblies can map out the distribution and vulnerability of natural resources, infrastructure, and population, and use this information to identify areas that are at risk of climate change impacts. It has therefore become necessary for assemblies to be fully equipped with techniques and methodologies in collecting such data.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing Unit of the Resilience Against Climate Change (EU-REACH) project held a 3-day capacity-building training for the planning department of Sissala East Municipal Assembly (SEMA) in the Upper West Region. This was aimed at enhancing their capacities in data collection and the use of geo-referenced data collection tools.

The training for SEMA forms part of actions by the REACH Project to assist MMDAs in the region to plan in ways that will build communities' resilience to climate change impacts, such as floods and droughts. By supporting District Assemblies, the project can help ensure that climate risks and adaptation measures are integrated into local development plan.

Dramani Duwiejua, Municipal Planning Officer for SEMA, intimated how helpful the training will be to them. *"Thematic maps of various resources and desired future maps of the Municipality must be included in our MTDP for our Plan to be accepted by the NDPC. We lacked the most recent spatial data and the necessary expertise to produce the maps prior to the training."*, he said.

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Participants at the event registration point

Tech Job Fair 2023 hosts over 2,000 IT talents in Accra

In partnership with the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) and AFOS Foundation, the Special Initiative "Decent Work for a Just Transition," which operates under the brand **Invest for Jobs**, organized the 2023 edition of the annual Tech Job Fair (TJF) on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at the Accra International Conference Centre.

The job fair, held under the theme "Leveraging technology to create inclusive and sustainable jobs," brought together 55 companies (exhibitors and hiring firms) looking for new talents on the one hand, and over 2,000 job-seeking graduates on the other, to exhibit and fill up job openings through an innovative rapid recruitment process.

According to Mr. David Gowu, the Executive Director of IIPGH, "debates have always been rife as to whether the graduate unemployment situation in Ghana is occasioned by a lack of job openings or a mismatch of skills in relation to the available jobs. It is in response to this quandary that the concept of the Tech Job Fair (TJF) was conceived and birthed in 2020, and it is a great opportunity to find or change jobs, learn from the best experts in the IT and digital industries, and as well learn from and network with peers."

To climax the activities on the day, a "business and networking cocktail" session was held by the Invest for Jobs team for European and Ghanaian tech companies, as well as industry stakeholders, to explore collaborations among companies in the IT sector with GIZ and the Government of Ghana. ✉ belinda.awumee@giz.de

FEMALE PERSONALITY SPOTLIGHT – Angela Armah



“Minds, like parachutes, work best when they are open” Thomas Dewar

These were the words Angela Armah reflected on when she started as a Technical Advisor for the Programme for Sustainable Economic Development component on Promoting Microinsurance in Ghana. When she joined in August 2013 little did she know that years down the line she will become a component manager within the programme.

Before GIZ, Angela had completed her master's in Public Health from the University of Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom and worked in several public and private institutions. Coming from a vastly different educational and practice background, she needed to be open-minded to learn about the Insurance industry and its mechanics. Working on this new topic was challenging initially but also exciting because it meant endless opportunities in uncharted waters.

She remembers very fondly her then component manager, Jan Meissner who mentored her in understanding this new world of development cooperation and thematic context. Through her constant exchanges with colleagues and reading every material she could lay her hands on she quickly became abreast with the insurance landscape in Ghana as well as industry challenges that needed intervening.

Whilst going through the mill, what kept her motivated was by realizing that there was always Tomorrow. She frequently comforted herself with these words when things didn't end up as expected. *“No one is a superstar every day, and if you feel like you didn't do your best today, there is always tomorrow to be your best. Mistakes happen and the key to learning from your mistake is not to let it get you down but try to do better next time.”*

Her tenacity is rooted in family values; Angela comes from a large family where her parents were disciplinarians. Her father's ardent mantra was *“If it must be done; it must be done well”*. He had a strong belief in the strength of women because he was raised single-handedly by his mother and prioritized the education of his daughters and encouraged them to achieve the highest of heights. Her family always echoed the values of integrity, hard work, resolve, and resilience in setting the foundation of her nurturing.

Growing up, her source of inspiration for leadership was the women in her family. Her mother and both grandmothers were constantly present in her life and role models for her throughout her journey. From her paternal grandmother's fierceness and persistence to her maternal grandmother's ever-present smile and her mother's power to adapt to any circumstance. These qualities were inspirational to her in many ways.

Now, she draws inspiration from all the women she interacts with, whether at work or personal life.

“I think we have something to learn from everyone whose path intersects with ours and I find inspiration every day from the women I am lucky enough to call friends or colleagues, no matter their age, position, or background”. Not forgetting the male allies who believed in her and worked tirelessly to ensure that she is the kind of leader she is today. She talked fondly of the cluster coordinator of the NIED cluster and the former team leader of PSED.

“Gerald Guskowski and Detlev Axel Jabn gave me endless opportunities to grow in my career. They gave me the needed resources and latitude which propelled my growth”.

All who know Angela would attest to the fact that, when she is not working, she spends quality time with her family and friends. Her two children, now young adults are a constant joy to her.

In advising young female professionals she said *“Be openminded and curious to try new things, because that might just be the springboard you need to break barriers”*. maxwell.kwaku@giz.de

Celebrating Success

How a metal box produces charcoal sustainably



Slowly, smoke drifts through the metal opening and the smell of fire spreads as the men open the so-called box kiln. It is the first time in the small community Yazori up North, that such a kiln has been used to produce charcoal more efficiently and thus more sustainably than in conventional production.

Women, men, children - almost the entire community has gathered curiously around the large kiln, because most families here earn a large part of their livelihood from charcoal production. Even if it is mainly the traders who make money from it, it is at least a reliable business. Throughout the country, most people cook with charcoal because it is cheaper than gas and has a higher calorific value than firewood. But the charcoal business has its price.

The carbonisation process produces carbon dioxide, which is responsible for global warming and thus for climate change. The gases released during smouldering are also harmful to humans, poison the groundwater and make the soil infertile. In addition, countless trees are being removed. This not only rapidly reduces the forest area, but also cuts down rare and valuable tree species, causing the forest ecosystem to lose quality. This is called deforestation and forest degradation.

Through charcoal production, people are therefore not only contributing to global warming, but also destroying their own livelihoods. *"People here are often not aware that they are harming the climate or that the forest resource is finite if it is not managed sustainably,"* says Cisco Aust, who leads the project "Forest Landscape Restoration through a Sustainable Wood Energy Value Chain" (FLR), as he walks through the heavily thinned forest near Yazidi and shows how the project is trying to tackle degradation and deforestation.

Simple methodical to protect the environment.

"A part of the total 700-hectare natural forest that we are rehabilitating starts there," he explains. The project has planted useful trees and now the forest can recover untouched. At the same time, the project has established energy wood plantations on 300 hectares of degraded forest land with partners and 12 communities. The planted fast-growing trees are to be used for charcoal production.

Back to Yazori and the kiln, which is also part of FLR. In the meantime, the women and men have packed the charcoal into six 40-kilogram sacks. *"That's twice as much as with the conventional method,"* says community member Dakari Saaka Bonjua happily. In the conventional method, a felled tree dries for weeks, then the wood is covered with a high pile of soil and set on fire. The wood smoulders for a week and must cool down before it is shovelled free and finally filled into bags.

The new kiln simplifies the work and is also much more effective. The wood does not need to be covered with soil, nor does it take that long to char. Instead, it is covered with a metal box, then the oxygen is removed and after 24 hours the already cooled and doubled amount of charcoal can be packed into bags.

So far, FLR has distributed a total of five such box kilns to partner communities. The project is now coming to an end, but Cisco Aust is confident that other communities will see the benefits of this type of charcoaling and follow suit and he says: *"The box kiln is not a complex technology, but a relatively simple method through which pressure can be taken off the forests and thus protect the environment."*

Celebrating Success

From an idea to an actual business!



After studying journalism, Rukaiya Mohammed thought she would work in her profession, but her friends and family spurred up the businesswoman in her when they constantly desired her nutritious shito (Hot pepper sauce).

She ardently speaks about how her family and friends, instead of buying already made shito from supermarkets, would rather send her money for her homemade delicacy.

“I started my shito business because my family and friends will not buy shito anywhere but give me money to prepare it for them, even when I got married and left Accra to Hohoe. So, I decided to cash on it”.

Rukaiya benefited from various projects implemented by the Migration and Employment Promotion component. First, through the business registration intervention, she was able to register her business with the Register Generals' Department. This has enhanced the formalization of her business, and now, she can boldly walk into any supermarket to sell her products. The Business Registration project wholistically supported two hundred (200) Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Greater Accra, Ashanti, Bono, Eastern and Western Regions to kickstart their formalization through registering their businesses. Apart from that, Rukaiya also qualified as a finalist in the Greater Accra Region for the Business Idea Competition.

“With support from GIZ, I moved my business idea into an actual business. GIZ supported me to register my products and trained me on how to use social media and be active and bought me a deep freezer and a canning machine. I now do weekly production instead of quarterly and everyone loves my packaging and shito as well. Quarterly I was making around 1000 to 2000 cedis, but now I make around GHs 2000 plus weekly”.

Rukaiya has a vision of becoming a household name when it comes to shito production, and she keenly looks forward to exporting her products to Europe and America! Through her business, she can support her family financially and help the women in her community.

This year, the Financial and Private Sector programme seeks to support MSMEs access sustainable financial services, improve their competitiveness as well as adopt sustainable practices that are environmentally friendly, socially responsible, and economically viable.

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Celebrating Success

From dashed to restored hope!



“Having gone through university education with the hope of working in one of the big four accounting firms in Ghana, I saw my hopes dashing away with every interview I attended and ‘the rejection letters that followed suit’ says Samuel Opuni Jr.

But he didn't want to give up so quickly and applied for the Young Professional Program (YPP) run by the Aya Institute for Finance & Management, a not-for-profit training centre that emerged from a partnership between GIZ and 4 private sector partners from Ghana and Germany. There he was accepted and with this programme everything changed for him.

Samuel is a 25-year-old graduate from the University of Professional Studies, Accra. He graduated with a first-class degree in accounting. But that is not enough to successfully apply for a job. Application documents and a good interview are also important, and this is where the Young Professional Programme comes in. Through the programme, Samuel acquired basic work training skills to boost his confidence and communication skills. *“I knew I was up to the task and had the skills to become successful in the professional world; what I lacked was the confidence to pass interviews and that’s exactly why I registered to be part of the Young Professional Program.”*

Long way to find a job.

Like Samuel, majority of graduates find it difficult getting employed in Ghana. According to data from the Institute of Statistics, Social and Economic Research of the University of Ghana, only 10 % of graduates find jobs after their first year of completing school. The data also indicated that it may take up to 10 years for a larger number of graduates seeking for jobs to be employed due to challenges that include lack of employable skills. It is for this reason the Young Professional Program was introduced; it seeks to help train graduates who lack employable skills, and to increase their chances of getting employment.

“I feel very fortunate to have been selected out of a total 235 persons who applied for the program. quipped, a happy Samuel. “I finally gathered courage to go for another employment interview. Now I am gainfully employed,” explains Samuel.

“I am thankful to organisers of the programme who contributed to adding value to the knowledge I acquired in school, and the opportunity to finally gain employment. I have been employed by the United Bank of Africa (UBA); however, I know this is only the beginning; I foresee more opportunities ahead of me,” beamed Samuel.

Celebrating Success

Opportunities for the Youth in Agribusiness – The Untold Story of Emmanuel Boro Bayi



Every year, various tertiary, and technical institutions in Ghana, churn out thousands of graduates to compete in the job market for employment. The 2021 Ghana Economic Forum, held in Accra, discussed extensively agribusiness opportunities as a key to bridging the unemployment gap for the youth. However, the zeal for youth participation in agribusiness is low due to limited knowledge and training in agribusiness and a lack of information on agribusiness opportunities.

Spurred by this surge in the number of unemployed graduate youth, the Market Oriented Agriculture Programme in North West Ghana rolled out the Youth in Agribusiness Programme (YiAB). A programme to support youth-led agribusiness and create job opportunities among the youth. Participants are equipped with marketing and managerial skills to promote their innovations for increased production, processing, and marketing. Since its inception, 11 youth-led enterprises have enrolled and are being exposed to the possibilities and growth in Agribusiness. This, Emmanuel, classifies as a timely opportunity.

The 24-year-old university graduate, upon job hunting, grabbed the opportunity to explore the agribusiness sector. Through interaction with a friend on his interest in the groundnut value chain, his dream of becoming a business owner has birthed “Apex Peanuts”. As a beneficiary of the YiAB programme, he unfolds his experiences of how his participation has enlightened him on the vast opportunities in agribusiness and the need to develop a niche.

Through YiAB training and coaching sessions, the enterprise has expanded immensely, increasing not only its national supplies but internationally. *“The coaching sessions helped me build great networks at exhibitions. I now export groundnut paste and groundnut chips to countries like Lebanon, and Morocco”* he said.

The training groomed participants on fund-raising, record-keeping, and risk-taking in business. According to Emmanuel, the application of the fund-raising technique in business, enabled the acquisition of an electric groundnut deep fryer machine, allowing him to produce 5 times more as compared to conventional frying of groundnut. In practicing the fund-raising technique, Emmanuel solicited for funds from family and friends interested in investing in his business. *“I shared my intention of upscaling my business with my loved ones by soliciting their financial help to get the machine with zero interest rate”* he added.

Among other topics learned and practised, Emmanuel took the risk of providing quality groundnut seed on credit to women farmers in return for an agreed quantity of the yield at harvest. With the improved seed, the women farmers increase their yields and in addition to producing the groundnut required by Emmanuel, gain additional income from sales.

As part of his marketing strategies, he targets Momo agents in the region and beyond to sell his products and reach a wider range of customers through wholesale packages.

“I have mobile money vendors in Lawra, Jirapa, Wa, and Accra selling my peanut products as an extra source of income. Sales have greatly improved by 50%, he said. I was making a revenue of about GHC 2,000 every month before the training. After the training, I added the paste and now makes a revenue of GHC 6000”.

Groundnuts are a high-value crop that can be marketed with little processing but are extremely versatile and can be used in a wide range of products. The young Agripreneur intends to widen his scope into processing and marketing, by becoming the market hub for quality groundnut and processed groundnut products in Northwest Ghana and beyond.

We have merged! Introducing the new Support to the Private and Financial Sector programme.

The Programme for Sustainable Economic Development ended in December 2022 after almost four (4) years of impactful implementation. The programme's structure comprised of four components including Migration and Employment Promotion (MEP), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Digital Transformation (DTC) and finally the Financial Systems Development (FSD) component.

Over the years, these components have created sustainable impact through various interventions. For example, the MEP component trained over 10,000 (M)SMEs with entrepreneurship skills to kickstart or expand their businesses; with over 150 returning migrants supported with startup equipment to enhance reintegration efforts. 400 individuals trained in various skills such as carpentry and hairdressing; with 200 businesses supported to formalize their businesses and certify their products with regulatory authorities, amongst other achievements.

The TVET component over the years has supported COTVET (now CTVET) and the Ministry of Education in developing policies and reform strategies towards a more demand driven Ghanaian TVET system. In September 2019, 109 training providers supported by GSDI were registered with CTVET, out of which 55 were accredited to provide training.

In the area of Financial Systems Development, over 200 employees from the partner FSPs were trained in the management of non-performing loans, product sales and marketing, and SME financial analysis. FSD also launched four nationwide campaigns in collaboration with the Insurance Awareness Coordinators Group (IACG), each of which reached over 2 million Ghanaians. Additionally, the component also supported the Ministry of Finance in developing a regulatory framework.

With the Digital Transformation Centre, Eskills4girls, organized digital skills trainings for 1200 women and girls; supported 4 training providers to enhance their infrastructure. The component further provided digital skills for over 120 persons with disabilities in 7 regions of Ghana amongst Their Ghana Digital Innovation Week (GDIW) with Make IT also brought over 1500 participants in its hybrid sessions.

Now, with DTC and TVET breaking away as full-fledged programmes, the new PFS programme merges the previous MEP and FSD components. The merger will harness the collective efforts of both components to wholistically support the growth of MSMEs. The programme will focus on various outputs targeted at providing demand oriented financial services to MSMEs; strengthening regional networks; supporting returning and potential migrants with employment services; and finally measures to promote green businesses.

Another twist for the programme, is the addition of the new Vaccine Production project which will significantly contribute (technically and logistically) to making Ghana a hub for sustainable vaccine production on the African continent. This initiative is also set to lead to employment promotion and development.

The new Support to the Private and Financial Sector Programme indeed seeks to promote an inclusive and sustainable (M)SME ecosystem in Ghana, and further provide tailored interventions to improve livelihoods.

Making Impact Through TVET– SILKE PARTNER



Madeleine Albright once said, *“It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent.”* Indeed, Silke Partner continues to remain a striking force motivated by the illustrious mission to impact the younger generation through the creation of opportunities, especially within the landscape of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

For 17 years, 14 stationed in Africa coupled with her intriguing background in Educational Policy; it is no doubt that, Silke’s passion for educational reforms, especially with TVET have contributed to great project successes in all her designations. Prior to being stationed in Ghana, she worked at the Headquarters in Germany, South Africa, Rwanda, and Namibia (Interestingly her husband is of South African descent).

She derives motivation from delivering impactful leadership, driven by what changes she can inculcate at project level which transcend into the output of her team and success of the beneficiaries. *“With the changes we can do on systems and institutional level and how it trickles down to amazing young men and women is exciting.”*

Like Michelle Obama once said, *“Every girl no matter where she lives, deserves the opportunity to develop the promise within her.”* As a strong advocate for women empowerment, Silke is passionate about young girls being mentored through life while equipping themselves with skills. Silke believes that together with her enthusiastic team, the Support to the Transformation of the TVET System in Ghana project will help contribute towards reshaping and strengthening TVET systems, and frameworks, as well as the capabilities of the partners which will trickle down to its beneficiaries. *“The project is looking at bridging gaps and delivering employable career skills unto the labor market.”*

Together with her team, her goal is preaching the spirit of togetherness and integrity which will reflect on the significant outputs that spring up from the project. She also believes her team’s growth both individually and collectively will plant great seeds for the foundation and manifestation of the project.

On her transition to Ghana, Silke mentioned it has been a smooth and welcoming journey so far.” She mentioned that Palava sauce is currently her most preferred Ghanaian meal. She is a lover of nature and visits the beach to enjoy the beautiful breeze, however she is looking forward to more sides of Ghana.

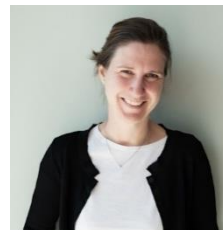
She mentioned the country planning event as one of the work events she has so far attended, noting that it was focused, well-structured, and an informative experience that included a chance to interact with the various clusters at the national office.

NEWCOMERS | Welcome to GIZ Ghana

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Monitoring &
Evaluation Specialist
AfCFTA



Silke Partner
Head of Programme
Support to the
Transformation of
Vocational Training



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Junior Communication
Specialist
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Technical Advisor
MOVE



Departures | Leaving GIZ Ghana

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