Inclusive Value Chain Collaboration Project

End of Project workshop

Venue: Erata Hotel, Accra, Ghana

24th October 2019

Theme: Farmer-Centered Value Chain Collaboration in Ghana & South Africa: Sharing Ideas & Outcomes

Dissemination Workshop Report

Mercy Derkyi (PhD)
Mr. Jesse Nana Sarbeng
Ms. Akua Boatemaa Danquah
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**Introduction**

The Inclusive Value Chain Collaboration Project was a five-year programme aimed to explore how value chain collaborations with smallholder tree-crop farmers in Ghana and South Africa can be made more inclusive of smallholder farmers and the environment. The purpose of the project was to call for research that contributes to improvements in local food security through private sector involvement focused on the functioning of the global food system and international value chains which aligns with the Food & Business Knowledge Agenda of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Given this, a consortium was formed which involved both academic and non-academic institutions. From the University of Energy and Natural Resources Ghana, we have Prof. Daniel Obeng-Ofori and Dr Mercy Derkyi. In the University of Limpopo, South Africa is Dr Patronella Chaminuka whiles the University of Amsterdam are Prof. Mirjam Ros Tonen (Project Coordinator) and Dr Yves van Leynseele. Non-academic partnership: Dr Anna Laven form KIT in the Netherlands whiles Mr William Kotey from GAABIC and Aart-Jan Verschoor, Senior Manager ARC, South Africa.

Dr Mirjam Ros-Tonen, the Project Coordinator presentated the background, objectives and achievements of the project.
Objectives of the Project

The objective of the project was to generate insights into the conditions under which partnerships between companies and smallholders’ farmers can contribute to increased food sovereignty, more inclusive chains and innovation platforms and multifunctional landscapes. The project adopted an iterative research cycle that looked at four key areas—Describe, Design, Explore and Explain. From description perspective, it focused on farmer profiles, livelihood trajectories, landscape effects and effects on food security. It targeted inclusion, exclusion, adverse inclusion, changing landscape and trade-offs (Explain). The Design of the project scope was a farmer-centred approach, learning platform methodology and inclusive value-chain collaboration. Finally, the project Explored new forms of inclusive and peer-to-peer learning and institutional support, landscape scenarios and farmers’ choice space.

Project Achievements

1. Three PhD candidates finalising their thesis, two from Ghana and one from South Africa
2. Two MPhil students graduated; two finalizing. All from Ghana
3. Fifteen MSc thesis by students IDS (UvA) (11 in Ghana)
4. Four learning platforms organised (one National and three at the District level)
5. Eight scientific papers published, three under review and many more planned
6. Two posters and six info sheets
7. Kwabena Asuboteng, a PhD candidate from Ghana, won the Agrofood Broker of the year in 2018 from the University of Amsterdam.

Participants Expectations from the Workshop
These have been categorised under three themes—sustainability of the LP concept, Fruitful deliberations and commitments and finally visibility and networking as indicated in Box 1.
Box 1: Participants Expectations from the Workshop

**Sustainability of Learning Platform Concept**
- LP should be considered in the 2nd phase of the project
- Develop an exit strategy to uptake the LP in the districts and upscaling to a wider coverage. An explicit exit plan to sustain the good legacy of the learning platform
- LP taking up gender-sensitive issues
- Funding of the LP should take center stage on the 2nd phase
- Impact of the learning platforms

**Fruitful Deliberations and Commitments**
- There will be an open atmosphere for participants to share knowledge
- Hear farmers and other stakeholders’ reactions to the presentations
- Expect to learn from the consortium and other members
- Increased knowledge in tree crop value chains
- Get a sense of project partners in Ghana and workshop practices

**Visibility and Networking**
- Networking with relevant agencies
- Sharing results and key insights
- Disseminate and Validate research findings

**Consortium Partners presentation on the relevance of the project**

Consortium partners shared their views on the relevance of the project since its inception to closure. The views are presented in Table 1.
Table 1: Relevance of the Project from Consortium Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consortium Partners</th>
<th>The relevance of the Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The University of Energy and Natural Resources</td>
<td>✓ Collaboration with University of Amsterdam through capacity building and knowledge co-creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Limpopo</td>
<td>✓ Understanding of farmer profiling and diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Amsterdam</td>
<td>✓ Strengthen collaboration among different stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Management Support Center</td>
<td>✓ Integrating a borrowed concept from the project known as the learning platform concept into the forestry commission project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Partnering with other institutions in the winning of project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>✓ Opportunity to collaborate with institutions and co-farmers through knowledge sharing and co-creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Value addition and processing of raw food products to maximise income levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Proper cultural practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armajaro Ghana Limited</td>
<td>✓ The project birthed out an additional livelihood for farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Understanding and appreciating different farming methods to maximise yield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Knowledge sharing and co-creation among farmers and institutions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Presentations

Learning Platform Concepts (Dr Edith van Ewijk and Yves van Leynseele)

Dr Edith van Ewijk started the presentation and spoke on the learning platform concept. The learning platform is said to be a multi-stakeholder platform including farmers, researchers, private sectors and government and non-governmental organisations. It is an open and safe learning space where knowledge is exchanged and a joint learning central with a neutral and excellent facilitator.

The uniqueness of the learning platforms in the Value Chain Collaboration Programme:

1. A farmer-centred approach: At least 50% representation of farmers
2. Organised at the District level

3. Organised around key relevant themes that change each year

4. Bringing in ‘innovations from below.’

5. Identifying ‘change-makers.’

Learning platform organised in the framework of Inclusive Value Chain Collaboration Project. The University of Amsterdam, University of Energy and Natural Resources in Sunyani, Ghana. Before the meeting so-called ‘innovations from below’ are collected in the field. These are shared in a multi-stakeholder meeting where also researchers bring in their knowledge. Farmers can raise their voices and hold institutions accountable. Themes for the platforms vary annually: landscapes, food security, changing landscapes

Why the Learning Platform Concept?

1. Complex problems cannot be solved by one organisation or one group of people.

2. To collaborate on issues that are relevant for all participants

3. To stimulate joint learning: benefits for all

Importance of the learning platform concept among the stakeholders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Companies</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Farmers</th>
<th>Researchers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Improve the relationship with farmers</td>
<td>-Gain more insight into farmers’ needs and strategies as a basis for better service delivery</td>
<td>-Share knowledge and ideas for sustainable livelihoods</td>
<td>-Bring research results back to farmers and practitioners and make them more relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Learn where the production bottlenecks are</td>
<td>-Improve the quality of their network at the district level</td>
<td>-Learn from other farmers and change makers - how to deal with challenges and create opportunities</td>
<td>-Gaining insight into knowledge gaps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Find a basis for more tailored service provision</td>
<td>-Gaining more visibility</td>
<td>-Direct interaction with relevant institutions on issues like service delivery and distribution of responsibilities</td>
<td>-Present and validate research findings with farmers and other groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Engage with public agencies</td>
<td>-Clarify and raise awareness about policies, roles, and responsibilities</td>
<td>-Access new research findings and validate research results</td>
<td>-Understand local dynamics better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Share ambitions and responsibilities with other institutions and enhance collaboration</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Strengthen research collaboration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Yves van Leynseele highlighted on the various themes throughout the four years. He also spoke briefly on the methods involved in arriving on the innovations of farmers and the presentation. He showed one of the videos of the innovations from farmers and highlighted that the stakeholders have set up a steering committee in both Tepa and Kade to take over the LP. Durability and sustainability always an issue; in this project, we started a process of handing over before the end of the project.

He also spoke of the Institutionalization of the LP concept. Examples of Institutionalization;

- Tree farm project which was also funded under NWO-WOTRO took up the concept of a learning platform including the research before the platform meeting
- The Centre for Climate Change and Gender Studies of UENR used the learning platform concept.
- The Dutch Royal Tropical Institute is using the experience of LP of Inclusive VCC for a new project.

Finally, he touched on critical factors to look out for the sustainability of the LP. He put those factors into three areas which are; good relations and presentation, farmer-relevant themes and Safe space.
Table 2: Three critical factors for the sustenance of the Learning Platform

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good Relations and Presentation</th>
<th>Farmer-relevant themes</th>
<th>Farmer-centred spaces</th>
<th>learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strong local presence of researchers builds trust;</strong> not extractive research or patron-client like relations but based on trust.</td>
<td>Ongoing research into a local context, livelihoods;</td>
<td>Strong farmer representation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embedded local partners with legitimacy - relevant people within org:</strong></td>
<td>Farmer-relevant, practical innovations in platforms</td>
<td>Safe space use plain language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The diversity of institutional actors’ benefits farmers.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Facilitation by ‘neutral’ convenor, committed champion;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Presentations on Research Findings**

*Ms Ataa-Asantewaa Martha*

The research was based on Diversity among tree-crop farmers in Ghana. The research was to find out why there is diversity among tree-crop farmers. The core problem was as a result of mismatch interventions to reality and failure of interventions. The research adopted both qualitative and qualitative methods and Content analysis (SPSS/Excel – Descriptive statistics, ANOVA, cluster analysis) to analyse her data. Qualitative; focus group discussions and farmer profiling –specific interviews and Quantitative; Survey. The findings from the research indicated seven farmer profiling groups such as (*caretakers, emerging farmer, e.g. abunu, constrain farm owner, mix-income farm owner, Entrepreneurial farmer, part-time farmer and absentee farmer*). These farmer profiles were characterised based on gender, age, income sources, food production, farm investment, support, challenges and aspiration. The research findings birthed out four farmer cluster unit, which is, (male-headed typical farmer,
male-headed diversify farmer, female-headed typical farmer, and male-headed part-time farmer)

More importantly, the research also centred on the number of tree crops, the intensity of farmers, household productive land area, annual household income, household food insecurity condition, important household crops and farmer inclusions in value chain collaborations.

Ms Malin Olofsson

The research focused on Exploring diversity amongst smallholder tree crop farmers in South Africa. She presented on the divided countryside and the study area (Locating and contextualising the case study).

The former homelands in SA in a context as;

- Poverty and marginalisation
- Deagrarianization and migration
- Subsistence focus + cash crops
- The customary land tenure system
- Rational for Agric commodification
- Commodity focused approach

She also indicated that a Smallholder farmer is based on Race, Relation to markets, Contribution to livelihood, Land size and Turnover.

Livelihood perspective and dynamics of accumulation in classifying farmers under;

- Cluster 1: ‘Welfare dependent’ farmers- ‘Hanging in’ through state grants
• Cluster 2: Diversified entrepreneurial farmers- ‘Inching up’ through agricultural diversification

• Cluster 3: Salaried- ‘suit and tie’ farmers. ‘Inching up’ through non-agricultural income

• Cluster 4: Successful accumulators- ‘Moving up and out’ Accumulating and expanding
  Trajectories to success

• Livelihood diversification off-farm income

• agricultural diversification

• inheritance of land and orchards

**Mr Kwabena Asubonteng**

The research focused on Effects of Tree-crop farming on Mosaic Landscape in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The findings from the research indicated that in a dynamic landscape, tree-crop expansion is indeed the primary driver of landscape change, at the cost of off-reserve forest patches and food crops lands. Cocoa and forest reserves are stable in the landscape, whereas oil palm is gradually expanding in absolute and relative terms. Also, the findings imply risks of loss of biodiversity and other environmental services as well as decreasing food production. Landscape actors desired that landscape is characterized by tree crop dominance. However, cocoa farmers and institutional actors want more segregated landscapes, whereas oil-palm farmers want less segregated landscape.

**Poster Presentation and Photo Exhibition**

The moderator instructed the research students to present on their respective poster to the participants and have interactions thereof. After the poster presentations, participants were
tasked to vote on the best photo exhibited. One research student, Christine emerged as the winner in the photo exhibition contest.

Photo 2: Some photos from field studies for the exhibition

Take-away messages and Acknowledgement from Project Coordinator-Dr. Mirjam Ros-Tonen

Take-home message

1. A farmer-centred approach is key to making smallholder farmers visible and heard

2. Smallholder farmers are not all the same, thus, different assets, aspirations, and challenges

3. The learning platform provides a new way of engaging with farmers that resonates well in Ghana

4. Identifying change-makers and innovations ‘from below’ is key to inclusive learning

5. Spatial effects of expanding tree crops reveal threats to food cropland and forest or tree cover

6. Innovation methodologies to uncover farmers’ views &innovative capacities.
Acknowledgement

The project leader acknowledged the consortium partners and stakeholders for making the project a success and honouring the invitation to the dissemination workshop; the University of Energy and Natural Resources, University of Limpopo, KIT. Supporting organisations including Lindt Cocoa foundation, Agro Eco Louis Bolk Institute -World Cocoa Foundation, Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana, UTZ Certified, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) -Oil Palm Research Institute, Resource Management Support Center under Forestry Commission, Ghana and United Nations University – UNU-INRA. Donor Agency includes Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken and NWO: Food &Business Knowledge Platform.

Closing Pray and Departure
Mr Koomson said the closing prayer to end the workshop.

The output from the workshop

Ghana News Agency captured the feedback from the workshop and the linkage is

https://ghananewsagency.org/economics/proper-classification-of-farmers-vital-for-effective-policy-implementation-report-158649
## Tentative Programme

**Date and time:** Thursday 24 October (8:30 to 14:15 hrs)  
**Venue:** Erata Hotel, Accra.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00 am-8.30 am</td>
<td>Registration of participants</td>
<td>Evelyn &amp; Akua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.30-8.40 am</td>
<td>Opening and welcome address</td>
<td>Prof. Daniel Obeng-Ofori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.40 am-9.00 am</td>
<td>Self-Introduction of Participants</td>
<td>Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00 am-9.20 am</td>
<td>Purpose of the workshop and overview of the programme</td>
<td>Dr Mirjam Ros-Tonen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.20 am-9.35 am</td>
<td>Participants Expectations</td>
<td>Dr Mercy Derkyi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SNACK BREAK &amp; GROUP PHOTO</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10.00 am-10.20 am | Presentations  
Tree crops Smallholder diversity in Ghana                                | Ms Martha Ataa-Asantewaa                |
| 10.20 am-10.40 am | A comparative view on smallholder diversity in South                      | Ms Malin Olofsson                       |
| 10.40 am-11.00 am | Q & A / Discussions                                                      | Mr Kwabena Asubonteng                   |
| 11.00 am-11.20 am | Landscape effects of expanding tree crop production                      | Dr Edith van Ewijk and Dr Yves van Leynseele |
| 11.20 am-11.40 am | The learning platform concept                                             |                                          |
| 11.40 am-12.00 noon | Q & A / Discussions                                                      |                                          |
| 12.00-1.00 pm | **EXHIBITIONS**               
Poster Presentations by Ghanaian MSc UENR Students                          | Mr. Samuel Aseidu                        |
|              | Display of communication products and other outputs by UvA Students       | Ms. Evelyn Affreh                       |
|              | Photo exhibitions                                                         | Mr. Jesse Sarbeng                       |
|              |                                                                         | Ms. Akua Boatemaa Danquah               |
| 1.00 pm-2.00 pm | **LUNCH**                                                                |                                          |
| 2.00 pm       | Wrapping up and way forward                                               | Dr Mirjam Ros-Tonen                     |

Facilitator: Dr Mercy Derkyi