**About PDA Agri-Industry & Social Enterprise Ltd. (PASE)**



PDA Agri-Industry and Social Enterprise Ltd. (PASE), a company owned solely by Participatory Development Associates (PDA), has been established as a limited liability company and a social enterprise platform to provide services to rural communities, especially women and young people.

In 2004, many smallholder farmers in the PASE catchment area increased the cultivation of oil palm through a Presidential Special Initiative on Palm Oil. Fresh fruit bunches (FFB) and palm kernel nuts are therefore now available in abundance, ready to be sold and milled into crude palm oil (CPO) and palm kernel oil. However, changes in government and policy direction left these farmers without a reliable buyer.

PASE responded to this challenge when the Assemblies of God Credit Union wanted to sell off its oil palm farm on a 55.8acre land, and its partially completed artisanal palm oil mill, located at Kunsu (Sika Frε Mogya) near Mankranso. Pressed for funds to recapitalise their credit union, our take-over stopped them from succumbing to pressure from some illegal miners in the area who were ready to purchase it for the sole purpose of mining which would have caused irreversible damage to the environment. Since taking over the farm, PASE has had to take stringent measures to stop these illegal miners from encroaching on the land. We completed the mill and reached out to the small-holder out-growers of FFB to build long term relationships. A rapidly growing number of farmers now supply the mill and so PASE is already bringing new and regular income to farmers in the area.

**Vision**

As a business and social enterprise, PASE will serve as a model within Ghana and contribute to the country becoming one where:

1. An increasing number of people who believe in freedom, equality and social justice set up ‘businesses with conscience’ as one of the ways of bringing prosperity to the poor and marginalised;
2. Farmers, especially the youth and women, are confident of having a ready market and fair prices for their produce and therefore see primary and secondary agriculture (primary being crop production, animal rearing and fish farming, and secondary being agribusiness, manufacture and maintenance of agricultural inputs and machines) as gainful sources of employment instead of migrating to urban centres in search of work;
3. Education is practical and relevant because educational institutions utilise the knowledge, skills, expertise and experience of people and enterprises within their locality;
4. Private enterprises in the formal, informal and traditional sectors of the economy use their facilities to benefit educational institutions in the area they operate from;
5. University and polytechnic students spend time during vacations working with farmers and applying the scientific and technological knowledge they have acquired to solve challenges facing farmers, resulting in innovations;
6. There is a partnership between the public and private sectors in the provision of agricultural extension services, supply of agro-chemicals, and affordable micro-agricultural equipment;
7. Agriculture is practiced in an environmentally sustainable manner using organic and integrated pest management practices; and
8. The waste from agriculture is used to generate bioenergy for both domestic and economic purposes.

**Mission**

Like the Songhai Centre in the Republic of Benin, from which PASE was inspired, PASE seeks to promote dynamic integrated human development of women and young farmers through the use of local resources. This will be done by simultaneously spurring agricultural production, processing, mechanisation and extension services, and building on indigenous knowledge. This will create ownership of the development process, and of the technical and external technologies, among the people and communities in which PASE operates. PASE will also seek to inspire community-spirited individuals to venture into social enterprises as a sustainable way of empowering the poor and marginalised.

**The Objectives of PASE**

* A production centre for sustainable, inexpensive and environmentally sound agricultural production.
* An incubation centre for the experimentation and promotion of agricultural technology and good agricultural practices.
* A resource centre for training small-scale farmers, especially the youth, women, and persons with disability, in successful crop production, livestock production and fish farming.
* A research centre in the maximized use of natural products, agricultural production and processing, and in integrated management of plant pests and diseases.
* An extension service centre for making the results from research centres and institutions of higher learning across the country directly available to farmers.
* A renewable energy centre in the utilization of organic waste into bioenergy for domestic and commercial use.

**Products and Services**

Products and services will be developed in line with the vision, mission and objectives outlined above, as follows:

**Production Centre**

PASE will be a production centre for sustainable, inexpensive and environmentally sound agricultural production, starting with the manufacture of crude palm oil. Soon after, it plans to use the by-products to produce crude palm kernel oil and palm kernel cake. The latter will be used to feed animals that it plans to keep and the surplus, for sale as animal feed. Five years into production, the company also hopes to produce refined palm oil for human consumption from the crude palm oil. It could also venture into soap making, using the palm kernel oil.

The company’s strategy will be to expand its palm oil production capabilities to serve the communities surrounding Mankranso. Our ultimate objective is to enter the international market. For this reason, the company will expand its production plant gradually, and establish a niche within the community as the most reliable company. It is already in discussion with farmers in the area to come into contractual agreement where PASE will take over the management of their farms so as to secure the produce. In addition, PASE will also acquire more plantation where eventually 50% of raw materials could be sourced from the company’s own estates.

**Incubation Centre**

PASE will serve as an incubation centre for the experimentation and promotion of agricultural technology and good agricultural practices. In this regard, it will seek to partner any of the country’s universities which will be interested in having their students (during vacations) spend time with farmers in the catchment area to work with farmers in finding technological solutions to challenges facing them.

**Resource, Educational and Training Centre**

As a resource centre for training small-scale farmers, especially the youth, women, and persons with disability, in successful crop production, livestock production, and possibly fish farming, PASE will put a scheme in place for students in Junior High Schools (JHS) and Senior High Schools (SHS) in the districts, and possibly beyond, to come on excursions and tours to the farm and the oil mill. Some will be encouraged to come and work during the vacations to gain practical experience. There will also be an apprenticeship scheme to train the out-of school youth. In all these, women and girls will be given preference.

**Research Centre**

As a research centre for the maximum use of natural products, agricultural production, processing, and in integrated management of plant pests and diseases, PASE will collaborate with interested universities and research institutions.

**Renewable Energy Centre**

PASE has plans to build a biogas plant which will utilize the waste from its farm and mill, as well as those from other farms and the nearby schools and households to meet its energy needs and to supply the school, if possible. It will also explore and promote other forms of renewable energy.

**Extension Service**

PASE will provide an extension service to farmers by making the results from research centres and institutions of higher learning across the country directly available to them. PASE will seek development assistance funding to organise farmer field schools (FFS) for farmers within the immediate catchment area. In addition, the company will use such funding to put an input supply scheme in place so that farmers can have access to genuine and affordable inputs, and receive practical training in their application during the FFS

**Current Activities**

**Farmer Support Services.**

The Farmer Support Services unit of PASE is responsible for the supply of farm inputs such as agrochemicals, harvesting tools etc. to farmers. PASE provide these inputs to the smallholder farmers on credit and the farmers pay through their FFB proceeds until the amount is fully paid.   
The unit train the farmers in the communities in our catchment area to improve their farm management practices. This dramatically improves their yields, and thus their household income because PASE provides a ready market for their increased farm produce. It also means they can earn more on the same piece of land. The unit offer farm visitation services to provide specific technical advice and mapping of farm to help farmers determine the size of their farms.

**PASE Farm**

PASE has plans to ensure that it guarantees more than 50% of the total FFB supply to the mill from PASE farms. This informed the decision of PASE farm expansion. The farm expansion will ensure a reliable and continuous supply of FFB to the mill reception even in the major lean season.

PASE has acquired 200 acres of farmland at Boatengkrom near Kunsu for plantation development. Currently, PASE has established 10 acres of oil palm on the farmland.

* **PASE Partner Farm.**

PASE is open to farmers with farmlands who intend to engage in ‘Abunu’ land tenure of farming. The farmland will be inspected and ensure the requisite due diligence for the agreement is followed before the commencement of the plantation development. This is to avoid future litigations.

A farmer from Boahenkwaa Santasi near Essienkyem in the Ahafo Ano South of Ashanti Region is collaborating with PASE to establish 33.66 acres oil palm plantation.

**Smallholder Farmer Mobilization**

PASE mobilizes FFB from smallholder farmers to supplement the FFB from PASE farms. The mobilization of farmers is a PASE priority because it ensures continues production of CPO. Due to lack of reliable buyers many farmers resorted to converting their oil palm plantations into other land uses. PASE farmer mobilization there provides a reliable market and has whipped up interest in oil palm plantation development.

**PASE Nursery**

PASE has set up 2 nursery projects with 3,000 and 5,000 seedlings respectively. The seedlings were meant for the establishment of the 200 acres plantation at Boatengkrom but due to interest from farmers’ some have been offered for sale. A seedlings market will be developed to ensure that any interested farmer can purchase quality seedlings at an affordable price.

**PASE Community Nursery**

PASE has an agenda to help farmers who are far from its seedlings market to raise their own seedlings in their various communities. Groups are formed with a maximum of ten farmers to collectively raise the seedlings. PASE supervises the project and provide assistance throughout the project. PASE acquires all the necessary material such as seednuts and polybags for the project on credit to the farmers.

**PASE Staff**