







# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRICA LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

JANUARY 2012 ~ FOCUS ON WEST AFRICA

## Non-State Actor (NSA) Workshop Engages Non-State Actors on the CAADP: Tamale, Ghana

Africa Lead supports national NSA "Dialogue Platforms," building multi-sector teams for improved engagement.

From December 13-15, 2011, Africa Lead supported the Hunger Alliance of Ghana in organizing a three-day workshop in Tamale, Ghana, aimed at promoting collaboration on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) between government and NSAs. The workshop engaged 42 organizations representing civil society and the private sector, including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), research centers, businesses, and academic institutions. The workshop was the second such Africa Lead-supported capacitybuilding effort in Ghana. The workshop encouraged the development of NSA networks and collaboration-to provide an open forum for discussion, collaboration, and action planningto enable NSAs to actively participate in and contribute to the CAADP agenda.

Participants stated that the workshop advanced NSA networking, accountability, and partnership formation. One participant reflected, "[T]he workshop reinforced communication and collaboration among NSAs and between NSAs and government in the elaboration,

implementation and follow-up as well as evaluation of agricultural investment programs and CAADP process."



"Participants in the NSA workshop"

## **USAID Convened Africa Lead Stocktaking Meeting in Accra, Ghana**

USAID convened a stocktaking meeting in Accra, Ghana, on January 17-19, 2012, to review with stakeholders the progress of the Africa Lead program. The USAID/Washington project management team joined members of the Africa Lead project team and representatives from USAID regional and bilateral missions for this review and planning meeting. Other stakeholders such as the CAADP Country team leaders, and Champions for Change trained by Africa Lead also attended.



"Word Cloud" about Africa Lead training

The goal of the meeting was to consider what approaches have worked well, where improvements are needed, and what can be done to ensure that a solid base for capacity-building for improved programming for agricultural productivity and food security is established.

The meeting consensus was that the project achieved a great deal in the first year but that there was still much to be done. The general sense of the meeting was that Africa Lead has strongly expanded the number of people understanding the CAADP agenda and

principles, and has increased the sense of urgency among agriculture Champions to make a difference. The next step is to provide the support needed to translate this enthusiasm into strengthened institutional capacity to achieve agriculture productivity and food security goals.

#### BENEFICIARY STORY: Liberia Champion Becomes a Catalyst in **Food Production**

"[I look] forward to seeing when Liberians will invest more in the soil, grow food to feed themselves and export food to other counties and see agriculture as a business."

— Zinnah M. Yallah

A Liberian Africa Lead Champion, Zinnah M. Yallah put his new skills to use shortly after completing the USAID-sponsored five-day leadership training program. He organized a community sensitization program for 50 farmers in his community. During the sensitization field day, he promoted the importance of food security and nutrition. Additionally, he explained what CAADP and the Liberia Agricultural Sector Investment Plan (LASIP) could do for Liberian farmers. The sensitization focused on helping farmers from Gayah Hill in Bomi County of Western Liberia 1) identify soil types for different categories of food production and 2) recognize the need to invest in the soil to boost production. Zinnah's aim was to change the mindset and attitudes of farmers to enable them to apply the knowledge they acquired from the sensitization. In addition, Zinnah also urged farmers to view food production as not only for consumption but also for business-to generate income to improve livelihoods. Since the sensitization, 20 farmers have started growing rice and other food crops using Zinnah's advice.

#### Visit us on the web at www.AfricaLeadFTF.org

Or browse our online database of upcoming short courses relevant to African agriculture professionals at

AfricaLead.vudat.msu.edu/courses

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#### What is Africa Lead?

Africa Lead is a USAID-funded program—and part of the Feed the Future global food security initiative—that builds the capacity of African agriculture professionals to lead change in food security

Africa Lead supports the CAADP by providing four main services to participating countries and regions:

- Developing and delivering training modules:
  - CAADP Champions for Change, a fiveday course about CAADP and leading change.
  - A second, four-day course, tailored to each country, to equip CAADP leaders to operationalize investment plans. The first offering took place in Tanzania in late October.
- Providing logistical and financial support for other training and innovative learning partnerships that connect participants with institutional hosts, such as the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the World Food Programme, and private sector agribusinesses.
- Assessing capacity needs of national and regional institutions, CAADP Country Teams, and National Agriculture Investment Plan implementation.
- Developing an online database of short courses relevant to African agriculture professionals.

### **RESULTS TO DATE**

- **1,107** trained CAADP Champions from 29 countries:
  - 545 in East Africa

  - 375 in Vest Africa197 in Southern Africa
- 109 people supported to attend various technical
- 6 professional interns trained in agriculture show management
- 8 national NSA workshops to mobilize NGOs and private sector actors to participate in CAADP
- Facilitation and logistics preparation for various conferences and meetings
- 28 institutional capacity assessments
- 2 assessments of CAADP Country Team processes
- A short course database features 436 upcoming offerings relevant to African agriculture professionals! Browse or search by clicking on Upcoming Short Courses on the Africa Lead website:

http://AfricaLeadFTF.org