

**CANADIAN SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE – GHANA SOCIETY OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION
INTERNATIONAL TWINNING PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**

**END OF PROJECT REPORT TO THE CSAS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, May 3-4, 2011**

Following the successes of the first phase, the second phase (2006-2011) of the Canadian Society of Animal Science – Ghana Society of Animal Production International Twinning Partnership Project (CSAS-GSAP ITPP) focused on two main strategic goals: strengthening GSAP and enhancing the welfare of rural women in Northern Ghana. Twenty-one communities (villages) in the Northern Region and four in the Upper West Region of Ghana were involved in the project. The specific objectives identified at the beginning of the second phase were:

1. To strengthen and utilize the institutional capacity of GSAP to improve household food security and income among women in the northern regions of Ghana
2. To mobilize and empower sustainable women's groups to access information on environmentally sustainable and economically viable technologies that will enhance the shea nut-livestock production system

Drs. Baah and Scott undertook a monitoring trip to the project villages in January and February, 2010. This trip was undertaken in collaboration with representatives of the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science and Ghana Institute of Horticulturalists who are carrying out our sister project in dry season vegetable production in Northern Ghana. In addition, Mr. Tom Beach, Director of International Programs at the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) joined us for a portion of the monitoring trip. This trip allowed each group to better understand the work of the other and enhanced the possibilities for future collaborations between the two groups. The report from the monitoring trip highlighted progress that had been made since the last monitoring trip in 2007, as well as action items to ensure continued success.

A total of 492 women in 44 community groups have benefited directly from the project. The impact of the developmental outcomes on communities at the end of the current phase was assessed through a survey of direct and indirect beneficiaries conducted in January, 2011. Questionnaires were administered to a random sample of 120 women participants in the project from 16 of the 25 project communities. We are happy to report that most of the planned activities were accomplished with very significant developmental outcomes. Key development changes resulting from the second phase included the following:

1. Strengthening GSAP
 - a. Membership in the society has increased from 210 to 275 (31%). The proportion of female members of GSAP increased from 10% at the beginning of the project to 27% as a result of mainstreaming gender issues into all project activities.
 - b. The project provided financial assistance to ten female final year students majoring in Animal Science in all the state universities in Ghana and also established a mentoring program for females in most of the tertiary institutions in Ghana.
 - c. Seven issues of the Ghanaian Journal of Animal Science and 19 newsletters were published during the course of the project. The society and CSAS-GSAP project activities have been featured 18 and 22 times in the electronic and print media, respectively. Four communiqués on factors affecting livestock production and on how to move the industry forward in Ghana were presented to the government of Ghana.
2. Enhancing the welfare of rural women in Northern Ghana
 - a. The total number of goats owned by participants increased by 81% (from 284 to 427), while the number of poultry owned increased by 35% (from 266 to 358). These dramatic increases in livestock populations were the direct result of the yearly vaccination of livestock, training and adoption of technologies by participants in supplementary feeding strategies, improved livestock housing and general best management practices.

- b. The quantity of shea nuts picked by women engaged in this activity increased by 30%, from 39 tonnes to 51 tonnes during the course of the project. This was directly attributed to the provision of protective wear (raincoats, boots and gloves). The raincoats enabled the women to continue picking nuts during light rain showers, while the boots and gloves eliminated the fear of snake bites and scorpion stings, thereby encouraging the women to actively undertake this activity.
- c. Of the 275 women who received loans ranging from \$100 - \$150 under the micro-credit component of the project, 86% reported increased personal income as a result of trading in food and household items and livestock rearing activities. The rate of repayment of the micro-credit loans was equally high, with 86% of respondents repaying their loan in its entirety, 2% repaying a portion of their loan, and 12% unable to repay the credit extended to them.
- d. Hospital visits by participants for treatment of malaria was reduced by 62% (from 213 to 82 visits per year). This was the direct result of project interventions including provision of insecticide-treated mosquito nets and educational programs for controlling mosquitoes in the communities.
- e. The increases in livestock numbers, quantity of shea nuts collected and processed as well as access to micro credit enabled the women to generate substantial additional income with significant positive impact on the livelihoods of their families, which was exhibited through their ability to pay school fees (88% of respondents), improved health care (85% of respondents), improved nutrition (94% of respondents), improved ability to meet household needs (84% of respondents) and improved housing (63% of respondents).

The current phase of the partnership project ended on March 31, 2011. However, AIC, in partnership with CSAS and four other Canadian professional organizations in agriculture submitted a new proposal to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in March, 2011, seeking approximately \$4M over five years to partner with scientific societies in six countries to undertake projects in agricultural and rural development. The success of this application to CIDA would lead to the renewal of CSAS partnership with GSAP. A funding decision from CIDA is expected in July, 2011.

We continue to be grateful for the financial assistance provided by the Partnerships with Canadians Branch of CIDA and the facilitating role of AIC in the project. We also thank Bridges of Hope International Network of Development Agencies and the Ørskov Foundation for financing the micro credit and goat breed improvement components of the project, respectively.

Copies of the 2010 monitoring trip report as well as the detailed evaluation and end of project/final reports may be obtained from Dr. John Baah (john.baah@agr.gc.ca) and Dr. Shannon Scott (shannon_scott8@hotmail.com).

Respectively submitted by Dr. John Baah and Dr. Shannon Scott, Canadian Coordination Team