



## Activity brief (December 2014)

### Ghana Farmer-based Organisations Capacity Building Project

1 October 2012 – 31 October 2014



**Background:** The vision of Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) is a modernised agricultural sector that will contribute to food security, employment opportunities and reduced poverty for Ghana's population. Farmer-based Organisations (FBOs) have been promoted as one of the avenues to achieve this goal. FBOs provide opportunities for farmers to benefit from economies of scale, better bargaining power and a stronger voice in policy development. Well-organised FBOs promote farming as a business, with linkages along the product value chain. However, many FBOs face challenges ranging from group disunity and weak capacity to an inability to access credit.

**Objective:** The Australian Government designed the Ghana FBO Capacity Building Project in collaboration with MoFA's Directorate of Agricultural Extension ('the Directorate'). The project aimed to support the capacity building of FBOs, with a focus on improved service delivery and increased access to markets along the agriculture value chain.

**Activity description:** The activity had three interlinked components:

- Build the capacity of Directorate extension staff to provide adequate support to FBOs.
- Strengthen the Ministry's FBO Secretariat to enable improved data collection and dissemination of information to, and between, FBOs.
- Train selected FBO apex bodies to improve their capacity to provide services to their members.

**Sector:** Agriculture and food security

**Outcomes:** The project complemented the Government of Ghana's programs that assist FBOs to drive development and economic activity in the agricultural sector.

Results included:

- Trained 936 agricultural extension personnel in agribusiness and farm management, agricultural value chains and post-harvest management (of these 936, 286 also received training on contemporary extension methods).
- Launched the FBO website, and through this the FBO database gave the FBO Secretariat a higher profile in the country as the coordinating body for FBO-related activities, in addition to allowing regular contact with the FBO Secretariat through their monitoring visits to all of the training events and their involvement in the installation and training on the database.
- Produced 300 copies each of four different manuals on Agribusiness and Farm Management, Agricultural Value Chains, Post Harvest Management and Contemporary Extension Methods (the manuals are available at each regional and district office in the country and at the FBO Secretariat).
- Trained all 2 434 agricultural extension agents in the country, as well as FBO representatives, and supplied these officials with handbooks on Agribusiness and Farm Management, Agricultural Value Chain Management and Post Harvest Management.
- An independent review of the project found that agricultural extension agents and officers trained by the program were actively transferring appropriate technology to FBOs in their respective operational areas. Examples of key learnings included better farm management and record keeping, and successful FBO applications for credit.

**Participating country:** Ghana

<b>Date approved:</b>	28/07/2012
<b>Implementation partner:</b>	Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Government of Ghana
<b>Total cost:</b>	AUD 1 424 390