

# ATEBUBU AND WIASE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION



## REPORT ON THE 6TH MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLATFORM (MSP) MEETING

REPORT BY: NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

*Date: 20/06/2023*

## Background

The Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) was created to monitor the progress of the project titled “Atebubu and Wiase Forest Landscape Restoration” funded by AstraZeneca and implemented by NGPTA, NDF and APSD. The 5-year project aims at restoring degraded land areas and improving the livelihoods of farmers engaged in the project. The Multi-Stakeholder platform gives opportunity for the voices of the project beneficiaries (farmers) to be heard and address challenges encountered during the implementation phase of the project. Again, foreseeable hazards that may retard the success of the project are discussed to find practicable solutions. NDF has organised five (5) Multistakeholder Platform (MSP) meetings to address urgent issues on the project. The 6<sup>th</sup> multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) meeting was organised to receive feedback, solicit inputs on how best to implement the project going forward and present the progress of the project implementation to the stakeholders.

## Introduction

This report covers a one-day 6<sup>th</sup> multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) meeting to discuss and share ideas on project implementation that will help address critical issues going forward.

## Attendance

The meeting was well-attended. Participants were made up of the District Chief Executive (DCE) of the Sene West District, representatives from both Atebubu-Amantin and Sene West District Assemblies, Agriculture Department, Ghana Fire Service –Atebubu-Wiase Stationed, the Forest Service Division, the Wildlife Division, and the Farmers. A total of sixty-three (63) participants were present at the meeting. Out of the 63, fifty-seven (57) were males representing 90% and six (6) were females representing 10%. **Attached as annexe\_1 is a copy of the participant sheet.**

## Welcome Address

Hon. Anthony Owusu, the Assemblyman of the Bantama community and the chairman of the MSP, welcomed participants present at the meeting by attesting that this is another opportunity to come together for the sixth time to discuss and assess the progress of the ongoing project. In his address, he indicated that almost a year had passed since the initiative's implementation, which provides project beneficiaries with cashew, mango, and coconut trees as well as other species of timber. This action is to mitigate climate change and improve the livelihoods of farmers in the project landscape. He urged participants to pay maximum attention and contribute to the discussions that will aid in the success of the project.

## Summary of Project

Mr Mustapha Seidu, the Director of the Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) gave the purpose of the meeting. He mentioned that the meeting was organised to tackle four actions. The meeting will deliver the summary of the project, experience sharing from old project beneficiaries, updates from the NGPTA officers, APSD and finally a discussion on urgent issues that needs to be addressed going forward with the project implementation. Continuing his presentation, he said the project started in 2021 and will be ending in 2025 but has a potential

extension to the year 2030. The project is being implemented in two districts (Atebubu Municipal Assembly and Sene West Municipal Assembly) receiving funding from Astra Zeneca. The project has four implementors which are New Generation Plantation Technical Assistance (NGPTA), Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), African Plantation for Sustainable Development (APSD) and Circular Bio-economy Alliance. Below are the three major components of the project carried out by the project implementors:

1. Natural forest restoration which is led by APSD.
2. Restoration through farmer Agroforestry system: this action is implemented by NGPTA and NDF
3. The organisation of MSP meetings every quarter of the year to address issues arising from project implementation which is led by NDF.

Ending his presentation, he stated that by the end of 2025, the project targets to plant three million trees covering about 3,000 hectares (project expansion will only be communicated after AZ Forest expansion is announced). The project, he added, aims to improve the livelihoods of project beneficiaries and mitigate climate change. He concluded that, the MSP meeting was therefore organised to share ideas and solicit for inputs to better the implementation of the project. ***Attached as Annexe\_2 is the PowerPoint presentation.***

### **NGPTA Progress Report**

Abraham Yalley, the community liaison field officer for NGPTA presented the update of the project implementation on the agroforestry component of the project. In his presentation, he said that the project has extended its activities to new communities. Find below the new communities added to the project listed:

- Santi
- Sawankyi
- Mem
- Menkor
- Lemu
- Kofidjan
- Kyeamekrom
- Drobe
- Akyeremade
- Kanto

In 2023, the project has targeted to plant 130,600 cashew, 86,190 mango and 4,210 coconut trees which will be supplied alongside 50,000 timber trees. The project has installed lead farmers in each project community where they will be very instrumental in the project implementation. These selected lead farmers were taken to the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) in Kumasi to build their capacity in agroforestry management. The project recruited new farmers through sensitisation in various communities and community members willing to be part of the project register with the liaison field officers. The newly recruited farmers must be committed to the project by subjecting a portion of land owned by the farmer

to the project which will be mapped for monitoring purposes under the project. He added that planting the timber seedlings is compulsory and must be installed along the boundaries of the project farm. The project has covered about 737 farms and this data is updated whenever there is an addition. Last year 2022, the project had 475 farmers which involved only 75 women, a percentage of 16%. Currently, the project has recruited about 572 farmers which has 160 women at a percentage of 21%. Agroforestry training has been conducted for farmers led by the NDF to promote good agronomics practices on the project farm and improve the yield of planted seedlings. Infographics on Good Agronomic practices have been developed for beneficiaries of the project as reference material by the NDF. Lead farmers will be key in the distribution of the seedlings for planting. Seedlings will be distributed from Atebubu and Kwame Danso to reduce seedlings' shocks and mortality rates. Ending his presentation, he urged the community members and traditional authorities to support the implementation of the project to yield the expected results.

### Update from APSD

Sledge Adokoh from APSD updated the participants on the progress of the natural forest restoration activity. He said that APSD is the lead implementor of the natural forest restoration activity and is tasked to execute the planting of indigenous timber species under the project. In 2022, 840,000 timber trees were planted in the project landscape which included Ceiba, Dadawa, Senya and Ofram. In 2023 about 815,000 trees have been planted out of the 3 million target. There are 1 million indigenous timber seedlings available and accessible to farmers to plant so it is an opportunity for farmers in need of planting local trees. Ending his statement, he indicated that natural forest restoration is a key component of the project implementation so all stakeholders in the project landscape should support it immensely. Farmers interested in planting indigenous timber trees should contact the APSD for free timber seedlings.

### Questions and Answers

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
How can the chief get to know the project beneficiaries under the jurisdiction of Kyeamekrom?	The project implementors will make the list of such farmers available to the traditional authorities.
How can a farmer get timber tree seedlings to plant?	A farmer should go through the project field officers.
What indigenous species are available for collection?	Ceiba, ofram, senya and dawa dawa
Has APSD been providing fire prevention education in other communities?	Yes, there has been a couple of fire programs to educate on fire prevention.
Will APSD allow the planting of the timber trees close to their fire belts at Garadima?	The farmer should see the APSD authorities for an agreement.
Are farmers going to pay for the timber tree seedlings to be supplied?	No, the timber tree seedlings will be supplied for free.

Does APSD engage the fire service in fire management in the dry season?	APSD contacts the fire service for fire management programs during the dry season.
---	--

## Experience Sharing

Participants present at the meeting were given the nod to share experiences learned from the previous MSP meetings. Below are the listed experiences shared by the participants:

- Knowledge acquired on climate change mitigation.
- The livelihoods of farmers are to be improved if the planting of mango and cashew are well established and managed.
- It is acknowledged that the mango and cashew will improve the livelihoods of farmers in the project landscape if well established and managed by the farmers.
- The timber seedlings planted are essential to human life.
- Lands subjected to be part of the project are mapped to know the size and location of the land.
- Discussions on land tenure issues have been very helpful, especially to the migrant farmers. It has facilitated the mandate of migrants to own farmlands in the Wiase traditional landscape.
- Fire management training and discussions have helped to reduce fire outbreaks during the dry season. Farmers have adopted the installation of fire belts to prevent fire outbreaks.
- Women's inclusion in the project is very low. There is a need to motivate the women and allow them to freely join the project. Women should be empowered to join the project implementation.

## The Way Forward

Participants present at the meeting raised critical issues that urgently need to be discussed and addressed to see to the successful implementation of the project going forward. Below are the listed issues raised at the meeting:

- Fire prevention management
- Building community relationships on fire prevention
- Land tenure issues
- Greening education in communities or Landscape restoration education
- Balancing the planting of food crops and cash crops

## Discussions

The participants at the meeting agreed to discuss balancing the planting of food crops and cash crops. It was discussed that the project should adopt a way to limit the planting of only cash crops and integrate the planting of food crops to promote food security. Land availability in the project landscape is difficult to access so it will be prudent to have a sustainable design to implement the project. Ending the discussion, project partners were advised to approach



the traditional authorities in the project landscape to explain and agree on the design that will promote the integration of food crops in the project implementation.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Conclusion**

The project intends to establish 130,600 cashew, 86,190 mango and 4,210 coconut trees, as well as 50,000 timber trees, in the year 2023. Lead farmers are trained by CRIG to boost their knowledge of agroforestry management to aid in the sustainability of the project. Women's inclusion in the project has steadily increased from seventy-five (75) to one hundred and sixty (160). The participants pleaded that, traditional councils in the project landscapes should be involved in finding a lasting solution to land tenure issues. Participants were enthused with the measures proposed to find immediate solutions to challenges bubbling up from the implementation of the project.

### **Recommendations**


- The assembly and traditional authorities should stand firm against animal hunters because they contribute a lot to the burning of farms during the dry season.
- Fire volunteers should be set up in various communities by recruiting the youth to help prevent fire outbreaks during the dry season.
- Land tenure issues should involve the various traditional council to discuss and arrive at a concrete decision to help the implementation of the project. Land tenure issues are very sensitive and may need time to be properly solved.
- The project should adopt integrating the planting of food crops with cash crops by limiting the land size to plant the cash crops to allow space for planting food crops.
- The project should have a required size of land size to be part of the project. This intervention will promote food security in the landscape and Ghana as a whole.

## Issues Log and Action Points

Issue	Status	Actions until the next MSP meeting
Communication	Pending	How can members help communicate better on project objectives.  The project resolved to use Community Information Centers to educate and spread information about the project
Better gender representation	Done. But there is more room for improvement	Women empowerment plan Bring in more female speakers to address their issues. Engage more women farmers.
Farmer representatives	Done	NGPTA field staff to help farmers to select their representatives to the MSP
Land Tenure	Pending	NDF, Assembly members and NGPTA team to mediate the impasse between the chiefs and the migrant farmers
Low participation of migrant Farmers	Pending	Same as above

## Annexes

### Annexe\_1 List of Participants



**6<sup>TH</sup> MSP MEETING**  
**PARTICIPANT SHEET**  
 Venue: District Assembly, Kwame Danso  
 Date: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

No.	Name	Community	Contact Number	Designation	Signature
1	Hon. Basi Relex	Mframua	05520292198 Asst	Assembly man	Basi
2	Nana Ochoeur Kwaku	mframua	0557347977	Odikro	
3	Agnes Arhin	Mframua	0573447972	Farmer	AR
4	Osei Kofi	Bantama	0550246844	Legal farmer	
5	Emmanuel Bady	Kwame Danso Fire Service	0246661398	Fire Service	
6	Eric Kontomah	Kwame Danso	0242772874	Agri Director	
7	Stephen Aideo	Atebubu-Amantin	0246213694	Municipal Agri Director	
8	Amponsah Aideon	Atebubu	0245367563	Asst-Planning Officer	
9	Abdul-Samed Ali	Atebubu	0249630639	ASST - Director	
10	Nuhya Ramzi	SWEDA		ASST DIR	



6<sup>TH</sup> MSP MEETING

No.	Name	Community	Contact Number	Designation	Signature
11	Gyaki Adane Isaac	Kantoi	0546470804	Lead Farmer	
12	Clement Dzigah	K/Dango	0592567788	Lead farmer	
13	Nson CELESTINA	APSD	0244637847		
14	ADOKOH SLEDGE	APSD	0540102924		
15	KOO BIBI	mfiana	0240429829		
16	Osei K. Joseph	Bonrafo <sup>*</sup>	0552888652		
17	Zakari & Kabove	GMP S Atelubur	0244552219	GMP S	
18	Nana Richard Aketfi	D.T.C	025649354		
19	Manu Robert	Mankor	0545057820	✓ Farmer	
20	Sohia Agyapong	Mankor	059384410	✓ Farmer	

6<sup>TH</sup> MSP MEETING

No.	Name	Community	Contact Number	Designation	Signature
21	DAVID ASARE BEDIAKO		0245538121	WILDLIFE OFFICER	
22	Kyeni Kwabena David	Akyeremake	0555179672	Lead farmer	
23	Akwasi Tionebwa	Akyeremake	0599556359	community leader	
24	Sarfo Paul K	Akyeremake (Atelubur)	0240360629	lead farmer	
25	Osipana Ludy Lule	Kwame Dango	0554806822	DIST ASS	
26	YAKUBU ADAMS	NITOMOASE <sup>*</sup>	0541616535	LEAD FARMER	
27	Elambo Francis	Kofi Djan	0595596181	Lead farmer	
28	OPOKU SAMUEL	DROBE	0594830725	LEAD FARMER	
29	Kwarteng Emmanuel	NAPTA	0264557724	CLO	
30	Mow Seale	NAPTA	0208202200	CLO	

6<sup>TH</sup> MSP MEETING

No.	Name	Community	Contact Number	Designation	Signature
31	Eugene Kwabena Abu	Kwame Danso	0243815004	Forest Services Division	
32	Kwadwo Martin	Atebobu-Mem	0660620093	Lead farmer	
33	Hon. Kuntando Bimpon Jacob	ALYOMOSE	0248446069	Assemblyman	
34	Hon Chae Solomon	Lemu	0544496324	Assemblyman	
35	Hon. Lai Kwasi Fzetain	Kliso	0543717727	Assemblyman	
36	Cecilia Ambea	Wisse	0241162291	Farmer	
37	Philmine Oususu	Kokofu <sup>A</sup>	0248230574	Farmer	
38	Tacyi Stephen	Kokofu <sup>A</sup>	0248230574	Diicuro	
39	BINGAYE DANIEL	GARADIMA <sup>A</sup>	0551962146	LEAD FARMER	
40	SALIFU ALHASSAN	LEMU	0246152669	LEAD FARMER	

6<sup>TH</sup> MSP MEETING

No.	Name	Community	Contact Number	Designation	Signature
41	Nana Anne Boodun	Drobo	0542110410 <del>0542104</del>	Odikwa	
42	Hon Anthony Omsu	Bankung	0546374330	ASSEMBLYMAN	
43	Nana Bawina Nii	Kwame Danso	0243448569	Ag. President	
44	KPEGLA ALEXANDER	Kyamekrom	0245624474	FARMER	
45	Franck Kizwah	Kyamekrom	0248152626	Assemblyman	
46	Waja M. Daniel	Shida A	0248192163	Technical Assistant	
47	JOSE PA MBWIN	Abamba <sup>A</sup>	0241961535	Farmer	
48	Agnes Tiwaa	Abamba <sup>A</sup>		Farmer	
49	TANIMU AWAL	GARADIMA <sup>A</sup>	0547636144	ASSEMBLYMAN	
50	Nana Baffor Gyau	Benigfo Odikwa	05449644	Odikwa	

## 6TH MSP MEETING



No.	Name	Community	Contact Number	Designation	Signature
51	ANITHONY KOFI BONA	KOKOFU *	0546540010	ASSEMBLYMAN	
52	Brahmah Sakuru	Kwame Danso	0243586925	D.C.D	
53	Hon. John Nyerba	Kwame Danso	0550344298	DCE	
54	Dimmah Gbese Kante	Kwame Danso	0509666094	ASHB	
55	Emmanuel Andwi	Sawabji *	0204606497	Farmer	
56	Mathew Gmasagma	Santi *	0249391186	Farmer	
57	Nana Agyei-Bedu Forster	Bentema	0246194223	Odikro Bentema	
58	Nana Nkosumah Raalgire	Kofi Ajan	0543986617	Odikro Kofi Ajan	
59	Jonathan Bada	Kyeamekrom	0550279897	Odikro	
60 *	Yabo Kra	Kyeamekrom	054730927	Odikro Kyeamekrom	
61.	Acheampong Phillip	Kumfia *	024626907	Assemblyman	
62.	Abraham Kelley	Atebubu	0249231100	C.D	
63.	Kingsley Tuumaci	Aceda	0241447299	Assist Project Officer	