



## 2<sup>ND</sup> MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM MEETING:

A RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**Mustapha Seidu and Glen Asomaning**

NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION | CENTER FOR AFRICA WETLANDS BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, ACCRA

## Background

There is a general recognition of the importance of the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) to the successful implementation of the Atebubu Wiase Forest Landscape Restoration project. A project that involves, among others, local communities in the landscape to plant agroforestry trees such as cashew, mango, and timber trees on their plots. This is to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change and to restore the degraded landscape through the planting of trees.

## Introduction

The 2<sup>nd</sup> MSP meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 at the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) Hostel in Atebubu. There was a total of 30 participants from the stakeholder groups agreed to be part of the platform during the maiden meeting. These stakeholders include the Coordinating Directorates of both Atebubu Amanten Municipality and Sene West District Assembly, the District Agriculture Office of both districts, and Assemblymen from Wiase, Mframa, Bantama, Garadima, Kokofu, Nyomoase, farmer representatives of each of the participating communities. Special guests from AstraZeneca, the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance, and the NGPTA participated in the meeting as the meeting coincided with a field trip by these organizations. A group of media persons who were invited by the project to cover the visit and other related events participated in the first part of the MSP meeting for the day. There was a significant increase in the number of women participants which increased from one woman in the maiden meeting to five during the 2<sup>nd</sup> MSP meeting.

## Opening

To make people relaxed and feel recognized, the meeting was started with a prayer made by a volunteer followed by an introduction by each participant of their name, their community, and organization or position.

## Statements and presentations

### *Statements*

The Chairperson of the MSP, Mr. Anthony Owusu welcomed participants to the meeting. He was full of praise for the project team for fulfilling the promise to deliver seedlings by May 2022 and asked participants to actively participate to find solutions to challenges to project implementation.



The representatives of AstraZeneca and NGPTA gave statements expressing their confidence in the MSP to help resolve challenges that are not solved by the field team. The MSP being representative of diverse stakeholders is better suited to provide technical support to the project implementation team. The representatives of Astra in the persons of Barbara Nel and Mawuli Atiemo indicated that Astra Zeneca has the ambition to plant millions of trees throughout the world and so the Atebubu-Wiase landscape restoration project forms part of the global restoration agenda. Ms. Barbara also indicated that planting cashew or mango trees are climate-smart approaches that create a sustainable future for future generations. They concluded by wishing participants a fruitful deliberation.

### ***Presentations***

The MSP is an institutional representation and not necessarily individual representation except in the case of the Assemblymen. That being so, the individual representatives may be changed. For example, the Coordinating Directors of both local authorities, who were present in the maiden MSP meeting, were transferred to different districts before the 2<sup>nd</sup> MSP meeting. The New Directors, therefore, attended in their stead. In addition, farmers voluntarily elected their representatives to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> MSP meeting unlike the maiden when farmer engagement and registration had not been completed for the year 2022. The presence of the new participants, therefore, required a presentation on the project and its components for the new participants. The presentations were also useful for the media persons present at the meeting.

The first presentation was made by the Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), who are the facilitators of the community engagement component of the project. The presentation, made by Mr. Glen Asomaning described the project conceptual framework, partners, target areas to be covered and the target number of trees to be planted. Mr. Asomaning indicated that the Forest Restoration and Woodlot components are to be carried out by APSD within their already acquired concession area. The agroforestry component which is being carried out by NGPTA is the component that entails direct involvement of the farmers and communities and therefore will be the subject of focus for subsequent discussions by the platform. The MSP is a key component of the Community Engagement component of the project and is also facilitated by the Nature and Development Foundation. The main donor of the project is AstraZeneca. The project is being carried out under the auspices of the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance under the theme “a living laboratory for community and ecological resilience”.

The second presentation was made by Mr. Mustapha Seidu Esq, by recapping the main decisions of the maiden MSP meeting. This was to refresh the memory of the participants and to ensure that those participating for the first time are brought to speed with the decisions and functions of the MSP.

### **Progress of project implementation and lessons**

Mr Abraham Yelley is the NGPTA Community Liaison Manager in charge of farmer recruitment, mapping of farms and distribution of seedlings to interested farmers among other responsibilities. Mr. Yelley indicated that for the year 2022, he and his colleague in the field have engaged and registered a total of 268 farmers in 11 communities, all within the Atebubu and Wiase traditional areas. Of the total number of farmers who expressed interest and were registered, only 20% were female. He also indicated that out of the number of farmers who expressed interest, 184 farmers already had their farms mapped. Out of this number, about 20% were females.

He further indicated that for the 2022 planting season, the project has a target to plant 530,000 indigenous trees within the concessions of APSD and 222,000 cashews, mango, and fast-growing shade trees. Within the current year, NDF will facilitate the MSP and also organize agroforestry training for participating farmers.

Mr. Yelley in his conclusion indicated that the team needs support from the MSP to resolve some issues they are confronted with in the field. These issues for consideration and discussion by the MSP include the following:

- 1) Land Tenure Dynamics within Atebubu and Wiase Landscape/Low Participation by migrant farmers
- 2) Low women participation
- 3) Fear of Fulani herdsman damaging planted trees
- 4) Land and trees ownership rights for planted trees

These issues were put to the MSP for a plenary discussion for sustainable solutions. To facilitate the discussion, the seating of the participants of the meeting was rearranged into a circle to create an atmosphere of equality and relevance for every member. In the end, the MSP was able to discuss and suggest solutions to the first two issues. The rest were deferred for discussion at the next MSP meeting. Below are the suggestions for resolving the issues.

#### ***Land tenure dynamics within Atebubu and Wiase Landscape/ Low participation by migrant farmers***

Migrant farmers engaged in the project who had their farms mapped are prevented by the chiefs from participating in the project. The chiefs want farmers to pay royalties or have special arrangements with them since cashew or mango are long-term landed investments and without such arrangements, there could be future litigation between the chiefs and farmers who would have stayed on the land for about 10 to 20 years without payment of royalties or rent. Such a situation could give rise to the acquisition of interest on the land by the farmer.

Therefore, both traditional areas want farmers to have expressed permission of the chiefs and be committed to the payment of rent or royalties or sharing of farm products. After extensive discussion, the platform made the following suggestions:

- 1) Considering the increasing demand for and competing use of land, MSP members agreed that the usage of land is no longer free. Therefore, farmers need to pay some royalties or rent, the amount of which is dependent on whether one is an indigene or migrant. Migrant farmers will have to regularise their land usage with the chiefs.
- 2) It is suggested that although the chiefs are aware of the project, the project implementation team and the Assembly Members should pay visits to the chiefs to have a first-hand understanding of their interest.

- 3) It is further suggested that a list of all interested migrant farmers is collated and a proposition made. They will be led by the MSP chair and project implementation team to approach the chiefs for consideration. There were suggestions that NDF takes the initiative to lead the process together with the Assembly Members.

### ***Low women participation***

Abraham Yelley in his presentation indicated that women's participation in the agroforestry component is below the expected ratio of 60%:40%. Women's participation in the agroforestry component of the project hovers around 20%. In this respect, the MSP platform made conscious effort to increase the number of women participants in its meeting. As stated already, the number increased from one in the maiden meeting to five in the 2<sup>nd</sup> MSP meeting.

Given this challenge, the question for discussion was, **what and how to increase the participation of women farmers in the agroforestry component of the project?**

It was observed that the low numbers recorded of women in the project is a cultural challenge. It is even more pronounced among migrant farmers. In the landscape, many women who are in marital relationships work on the same farms as their husbands as family lands. Out of tradition and norms, when it comes to recording the owner of the farm, it will be the husband's name that will be recorded. Even if the woman owns a farm, by cultural socialization, the wife will prefer the husband's name to be recorded as the owner of the farm. These are cultural. It can therefore be inferred that the majority of the women participating in the project are either unmarried, separated from their husbands, or widows.

The suggested solutions are:

- 1) In the short term, on a case-by-case basis, the names of both the wife and husband are recorded as participating farmers, where both work on the same piece of land.
- 2) On a case-by-case basis, the couple may agree for the wife to be recorded for a portion while the husband is recorded for another.
- 3) In the medium to long-term, the project has to institute education on gender empowerment and better opportunities.

### **Closing**

The meeting closed at 3 pm. The next MSP is slated for the next quarter, preferably the month of September. The meeting was concluded with a closing prayer, followed by lunch and departure. The list of MSP members is attached as Annex I.

## Issues Log and Action Points

Issue	Status	Actions until next MSP meeting
Communication	Pending	How can members help communicate better on project objectives
Better gender representation	Done. But there is more room for improvement	Women empowerment plan Bring in more female speakers to address their issues
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

Annex



2<sup>nd</sup> MSP meeting: Atebubu -Wiase landscape restoration

1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

Atebubu

No.	Full Name	Community	Telephone Number	signature
1	Hon Ben' Peter	nyrama	0552029498	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Mustaphs Seidu	Acera		
3	Monica Nkrumah	nyrama	0595840874	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	GLEN ASOMANING	Acera	024489798	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Sarfo Paul II	Akyemada	0240360629	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	Comfort Amookeo	Kumifo	0552344860 C.A.	
7	<sup>BALGAYE</sup> Comfort DANIEL	GARADINDA	0559962016	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	Sei Kofi	Bantama	0558246844	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	Gyan Benjamin	Kumbia	0594114740	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	Kessewal Joyce	Bantama	0553523676	
11	Meng Agyasi-Badu	Bantama	0246194331	<i>[Signature]</i>
12	TAKUBU ADAMS	MTOMOASE	0541616535	<i>[Signature]</i>
13	Bona Anthony Kofi	KOKOFU	0546540016	<i>[Signature]</i>
14	Nana Kwaku Asare	KOKOFU	0556466098	<i>[Signature]</i>
15	Takyi Stephen	KOKOFU	0248230574	<i>[Signature]</i>
16	Kuuchando Bimpo Jacob	MTOMOASE	0248446069	<i>[Signature]</i>
17	Hon. Lai Kofi Dede	KUSSE	0548717727	<i>[Signature]</i>
18	Cecilia <sup>Amoeba</sup> Kunish	WIGYE	0241162291	

19	MUHAMMAD JIBRILA RAMZI	SWISA	0246237702	
20	STEPHEN ADOD	MDA ATEBUSA	0246213694	
21	ANTHONY ONYUSU	MSP clai	0546374330	
22	Abdul Karim Seodu	FSD	084-8444849	
23	Faustina Achias	Atobusa	0556651620	
24	Abdul-Aziz Toyi Sa	Atobusa	0044767200	
25	Ampouche Sidou	Atobusa	024576003	
26	Jeffrey kop. Yehal	ATAMA	059486545	
27	Eric Atta -Kusi	KLVDLIFE	0208261367	
28	MATTHEW OPOKU	AGRIC(BDA)	0243244110	
29	IKP Inja David	Prepreban	0542640266	
30	Issiah kop	Atobusa	020758758	
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