

PROJECT NAME: ATEBUBU-WIASE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION



14TH MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLATFORM MEETING REPORT

KWAME DANSO

10th July 2025

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SENE WEST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY HALL

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KWAME DANSO

A REPORT SUBMITTED

BY

NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

TO

INOVALAND

Overview

This report summarises the outcome of a one-day multi-stakeholder platform meeting organised on the 10th of July 2025 at the Sene West District Assembly Hall @Kwame Danso by the Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) in collaboration with the New Generation Plantations Technical Assistance (NGPTA).

Background

The Atebubu-Wiase Forest Landscape Restoration Project in Ghana's Bono East Region embodies community-driven initiatives that promote ecological and social resilience. Beyond environmental benefits, the project prioritises enhancing local livelihoods through agroforestry and sustainable agriculture practices, which will contribute to:

- Bolstering food security.
- Increasing income.
- Empowering women and youth.

The project's Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) brings together diverse stakeholders to share knowledge, skills, and innovations, facilitating collaborative problem-solving and informed decision-making. This report captures the 14th MSP meeting, held on July 10, 2025, at the Sene West District Assembly, where stakeholders gathered to discuss project implementation, identify key issues, and shape the project's future.

Meeting Objectives

1. Update stakeholders on the progress of the project implementation.
2. Discuss pressing challenges encountered in the implementation of the project.

Meeting Details and Attendance

The Multi-Stakeholder Platform meeting held on July 10, 2025, at the Sene West District Assembly Hall was a success, with seventy-eight (78) stakeholders in attendance. To achieve this impressive turnout for the meeting, the NDF employed a multi-channel approach, sending out invitation letters via WhatsApp, making personal phone calls, and issuing daily reminders to ensure stakeholders don't miss the event. Attendees included representatives from various sectors:

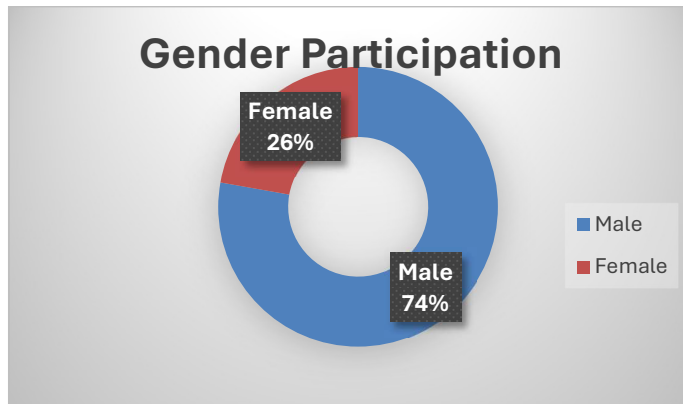
- Government Agencies: Coordinating Directorate of Municipal/District Assemblies, Forest Services Division, Ghana Police Service, Ghana National Fire Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Wildlife Division.
- Community Leaders: Members of the Assembly, MSP Chairman and Sub Chiefs from Traditional Councils.
- Farmer: Lead farmers and farmer representatives
- Project implementing partners: NDF and NGPTA.

Stakeholders	Males	%	Females	%	Total
Farmers	22	56	17	44	39
Government Officials	6	75	2	25	8
Assemblymen	10	100.0	0	0.0	10
Subchiefs	14	100.0	0	0.0	14

Technical Assistants	2	100.0	0	0.0	2
Project Implementing Partners	4	80.0	1	20.0	5
Total	58	74	20	26	78

The meeting demonstrated progress in achieving a more balanced gender representation, with males accounting for 74% (58 attendees) and females comprising 26% (20 attendees). Below is a pie chart summarizing the gender representation at the MSP meeting.

Attached as Annexe_1 is a copy of the scanned participant sheet.



Welcome Address

In his welcoming address at the 14th Multistakeholder Platform (MSP) Meeting in Kwame Danso, Mr. Braimah Sakuru, District Coordinating Director of Sene West District, emphasised the privilege of the district to host the event. He urged participants to take the project seriously, assume full ownership, and manage it effectively to maximise benefits. Citing the success of a cashew project in Drobe community, which yielded social benefits like a community laboratory and access to loans, Mr. Sakuru stressed that the district's commitment to projects can attract further investments and improve livelihoods. He warned that failure to make the project a success would result in losses, including access to free planting materials.

Mr. Sakuru encouraged participants to engage actively in the meeting, ask questions, and share vital information with other project beneficiaries who were not present. He concluded

by thanking participants and emphasizing the importance of collaboration to achieve the project's objectives.

Setting the Context and Purpose of Gathering

Mr. Mustapha Seidu, Director of the Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), welcomed attendees to the 14th Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) meeting in Kwame Danso. He introduced himself and facilitated the introduction of the participants. It was revealed during the introduction of participants that some of them were participating for the first time principally because of the addition of new communities to the project scope. Mr Seidu emphasised the importance of consistency in attendance to ensure knowledge transfer and effective project implementation. Mr Seidu mentioned that an individual cannot be farmer representative if he himself does not participate in the planting of cashew or mango under the project. He urged farmers who are yet to register under the project to do so as soon as possible. Mr. Seidu explained that the MSP meets quarterly to review project progress, address challenges, and find solutions. The meeting brings together project beneficiaries and key stakeholders to facilitate open discussion and reflection on project implementation. Mr. Seidu noted that the MSP meeting frequency has been adjusted from quarterly (4 times a year) to 3 times a year, each in Kwame Danso and Atebubu. This change aims to increase women's participation and engagement in the project. He stated that the project is a collaborative effort between New Generation Plantation Technical Assistant (NGPTA), African Plantation for Sustainable Development (APSD), and Nature Development Foundation (NDF), funded by AstraZeneca. Its primary objectives are to improve farmers' livelihoods and mitigate climate change impacts. Continuing his statement, Mr. Seidu reviewed the action points of the previous meeting to build on the day's discussion. Mr Seidu noted that the season is transitioning to the dry season, and the risks of fire outbreaks and Fulani herdsmen destruction are imminent. Therefore, it is necessary to implement interventions to mitigate the impact of these problems on project farms. Mr Seidu mentioned it was known that fire and herdsmen destruction were major challenges to project success. He also referenced the monitoring and evaluation report for the 2022/2023 season which indicated poor performance and further expressed worry if such a trend continues. In his concluding statement, Mr Seidu mentioned that the meeting aims to discuss the causes of these challenges and find practical solutions to ensure project success. Mr. Seidu mentioned the importance of regular MSP meetings in addressing emerging challenges and informing project implementation decisions.

Presentation by NGPTA on Project Progress

Mr Kofi Asante, the GIS officer from NGPTA, presented an update on project implementation. Mr Asante mentioned that his presentation highlights Agroforestry Training, Recruitment of Farmers, Nursery Satellite Pick-Up Spots, Mapping and Distribution of Seedlings.

Agroforestry Training

Mr. Asante reported that farmers engaged under the project have received training in good agronomic practices for cashew and mango cultivation in various project communities. This initiative was implemented in collaboration with agriculture extension officers from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, specifically in Atebubu Amanten Municipal and Sene West District. The training equipped farmers with technical expertise to enhance proper maintenance and optimise the yields of planted materials.

Recruitment of Farmers for the New Planting Season

Mr. Asante reported that manual and electronic registration forms have been distributed to lead farmers to onboard new participants for the planting season. The ongoing recruitment drive aims to expand project participation. To date, a total of 1,596 farmers have been registered under the project.

Satellite Nursery Pick-Up Spots

In his presentation, Mr. Asante reported that 15 satellite nurseries have been established in project communities to facilitate easy and safe distribution of seedlings to farmers. This initiative aims to reduce seedling shock and mortality rates associated with long-distance transportation. For the Atebubu Municipality, satellite nurseries are established in Abamba, Bolga-Nkwanta, Dobidi Nkwanta, Kumfia, Mim and Praprabon communities. In Kwame Danso, satellite nurseries are established in Chaboba, Tato, Lemu, Kyeamekrom, Menkor, Lassi, Akyeremade, Bantama and Mframa.

Mapping of Project Plots

Mr. Asante reported that project farms are mapped and recorded in a central database to ensure efficient project management. Before mapping, the project team conducts site visits to verify plot suitability, considering factors such as farmer readiness. Plots are only included in the project if they meet specific criteria. As of 2025, a total of 1,004 hectares have been mapped, comprising 49.6 hectares of woodlot plots (piloting in 2025) and 954.4 hectares of agroforestry plots. The mapping activity is currently ongoing.

Seedlings Distribution

Mr. Asante reported on the distribution of planting materials to project beneficiaries in Atebubu and Kwame Danso communities. A total of 81,111 seedlings were supplied in 2025, comprising:

- 36,344 Cashew seedlings
- 11,974 Casia seedlings
- 5,700 Ceiba seedlings
- 70 Coconut seedlings
- 5,137 Mango J seedlings
- 21,886 Mango KK seedlings

He noted that the project prioritised timely distribution, adhering to previous recommendations to supply planting materials early for plot establishment.

Mr. Asante cautioned farmers against planting unauthorised materials on mapped plots, warning that the project team will conduct monitoring exercises to ensure compliance with project guidelines.

Attached as Annexe_2 is the PowerPoint presentation by the NGPTA.

A participant praised the project team's initiative to establish seedling pickup hotspots, reducing transportation distances and minimising seedling shocks and mortality. When Mr Asante ended his presentation, participants were requested to ask questions if they were so minded. Below were the questions asked and the answers provided.

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
If I have requested mahogany to plant and later change my mind to plant mango, am I eligible to request mango to plant instead of Mahogany?	Yes, liaise with the lead farmer in your community for him to communicate to the project officers to act accordingly.
What happens if farmers haven't come for their trees to plant, but other farmers want more to plant, do I supply them?	Yes. Supply to ready to ready-to-plant farmers.
If a farmer wants more seedlings to plant but unfortunately has exceeded their quota to receive for planting, should I give out more?	The project can consider supplying excess seedlings only if the farmer's plot is mapped and included in the project.
If farmers request seedlings to replace dead seedlings, should I give out seedlings for that course?	Lead farmers should collaborate with project officers to verify eligibility and facilitate replacement seedling distribution, ensuring due diligence is conducted before supplying replacements.
It's whose duty to supervise the proper way of planting seedlings?	Training on good Agronomic practices is conducted for project beneficiaries before planting, so we urge project beneficiaries to take advantage of the agroforestry training.

Discussion on Project Challenges

The participants were asked to select for discussion what in their opinion is the most persistent and challenging issue affecting project success. Participants agreed that the most challenging and persistent issues are bushfire and crop raiding by cattle. Base on the season and the urgency of the issue, participants settled that crop raiding by cattle was most persistent and needed urgent redress. Participants attributed the persistence of crop raiding by cattle to community chiefs allowing Fulani herdsmen to occupy lands, leading to farm destruction. Additionally, indigenous cattle owners were implicated, with some allegedly collaborating with Fulani herdsmen to evade accountability. The good news is that some

traditional areas have been able to prevent Fulani herdsmen from inhabiting their land with their cattle. For example, the Wiase Traditional Council and some sub-jurisdictions within the Atebubu Traditional Council have banned the Fulani herdsmen from settling on their land with their herds. These actions by the two Traditional Councils have prompted participants to request the Djan traditional council and others through their sub-chiefs who were present in the meeting to convey to them to adopt and adapt the same for their respective areas since the dynamics vary from one traditional area to another. Participants further suggested the following but added that the issue of herdsmen is national in dimension and that it will take consistency advocacy and engagement to reduce the canker.

- Cease attacks on Fulani herdsmen and instead, report incidents to the nearest police station.
- Ensure proper handling of reported Fulani-related issues by authorities.
- Implement ranching systems to mitigate conflicts between herders and farmers.

Recommendation and Conclusion

Recommendation

Based on the discussions and findings from the 14th MSP meeting, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Strengthen community engagement: Continue to engage with community leaders and farmers to ensure project ownership and effective implementation.
- Enhance farmer training: Provide regular training and capacity-building programs for farmers to improve their skills and knowledge on sustainable agriculture practices.
- Address Fulani herdsmen-related issues: Implement proposed solutions, such as reporting incidents to authorities and establishing ranching systems, to mitigate conflicts between herders and farmers.
- Monitor and evaluate project progress: Regularly monitor and evaluate project progress to identify areas for improvement and ensure effective implementation.

Conclusion

The 14th MSP meeting demonstrated the project's commitment to collaborative problem-solving and informed decision-making. The discussions and proposed solutions aim to address pressing challenges and ensure project success. By implementing the recommended actions, the project can continue to promote sustainable land use, improve livelihoods, and enhance ecological resilience in the Atebubu-Wiase Forest Landscape.

Issues Log and Action Points

Issue	Status	Actions until the next MSP meeting
Communication	Done	How can members help communicate better on project objectives? The project resolved to use Community Information Centres to educate and spread information about the project.
Better gender representation	Done	Women empowerment plan Bring in more female speakers to address their issues
Farmer representatives	Done	NGPTA field staff to help farmers select their representatives for the MSP
Land Tenure	In progress	NDF, Assembly members, and the NGPTA team mediated the impasse between the chiefs and the migrant farmers. However, new communities are being added, and the issue reappears.
Low participation of migrant Farmers	Done	Same as above

Annexes

Gallery



14th MSP Kwame Danso Gallery.zip

Annexe_1



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14th MSP Participants Sheet Kwame Danso

Annexe_2

PowerPoint Presentation by NGPTA